

Public Libraries

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The Library's Obligation*

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This gathering of the American library association is but the thirty-seventh annual conference. The fact is significant, for it reminds us how brief is the history of the public library. Our other teachers are more venerable. Books we have had since the world was young; the church, through the ages; schools and universities and great reference libraries for scholars, hundreds of years; the newspaper, some three centuries; but the public library, free to all the people, only a few decades. That is an amazingly brief period to witness the rise and development of a great educational agency, so widespread and so far-reaching.

Yet, rapid as it has been, the spread of the public library is in a sense not surprising. It is a truism to say that the safety of a republic rests on the enlightenment of its people; and wise men were quick to see in the library a sound instrument of popular instruction. More slowly, they are recognizing that it also contributes in a measure equalled by few other institutions save the public school toward realization of the great ideal—still dear to America—equality of opportunity. It is not strange, therefore, that American communities everywhere are coming to deem it proper that all men have access to books; and for the spread of public libraries, we as librarians need feel no great concern. It will go on

whether we urge or no; for the public library has become an essential of democracy.

But the shaping of the libraries is a different matter; it lies often in the hands of the men and women who administer them. And if it is peculiarly the librarian's responsibility, so, too, it is a responsibility demanding foresight and judgment. For the library—to use a mathematical term—is not a constant but a variable. It has assumed new functions and to-day is still changing to a degree hardly realized save when we regard it in perspective.

That the public library should have started with traditions inherited from scholars' or research libraries is but natural. For a whole generation librarians laid more stress on garnering books and on perfecting the admirable machinery of their organization, than on finding readers for them; and it did not seem anomalous in the late 'sixties—though it does now to us—to find the trustees of a great public library virtually congratulating themselves that the poorest books were the most read, for they reported: "It is in many respects fortunate that the wear and tear of the library falls mainly upon the class of works of the smallest relative importance."

Nowadays libraries besides making extensive provision for the general reader are striving more and more to meet the special needs of every class in the community. Municipal reference collections are being established for our legislators and officials, technical books are supplied in profusion for the artisans in every branch of industry, com-

*President's address at Berkeley, Cal., June 3, 1915.

mercial books for the business men, books for the blind, the aliens, even the sick, the insane, and the criminal, and above all, for the children who have in recent years come to absorb so large a share of attention. Furthermore, this great public has been admitted freely to the books on the library shelves; while outside, through branch libraries and stations, by collections in schools and other institutions, by traveling libraries and deposits in factory and office building, in shop and grange and club; in short, by placing books wherever they will be accessible, the library alike in the small town and the great city is being carried to the people.

More significant still is the changed conception of library work. To supply demand is now regarded as by no means enough; the library must create demand. It must be aggressive, not passive. By booklists and bulletins, by addresses to societies and personal visits to the working men in shop or club, by exhibitions, by circulars, by a constant fire of articles and notes in newspapers and magazines, in short by all the arts and wiles of modern publicity, librarians are expected to make known their resources, to spread a realization of the opportunities both cultural and practical afforded by the library; and the ideal is not fulfilled until in every man, woman, and child capable of comprehending, there has been awakened an appreciation of the benefits and the delights to be derived from books.

Thus has evolved the modern public library. No similar institution in a community touches the lives of so many of its people. Consider how rapid has been this development. Much of it has taken place within a generation, much within the years of the present century. Some of it may still be regarded as tentative. With so large a sum of achievement, librarians do not fear frank criticism of details; and a prime purpose of these annual gatherings is to scrutinize the wisdom of our various activities. For example, in

these days, when the utilitarian is coming to be a fetish even in education, is there danger of the cultural ideal of the library becoming overshadowed? Is there a temptation to over-emphasize the bread-and-butter side of the library—the excellent practical work of aiding men and women in all callings to advance materially, of furnishing aid to men in business and commerce—all of which appeals so readily to the taxpayer? Are our methods of publicity in keeping with the dignity of an educational institution? With limited funds, is the share of the library's money and energy allotted to the extensive work with children justified by the returns? It is well to consider questions like these, to endeavor to make sure that in all directions results are commensurate with the cost, and to weigh the relative emphasis to be given different phases of the work.

Whether there be, or be not, room for some adjustment of relative effort as regards the activities already described, it will be agreed without question that they are in the main wise and successful, that they are approved by the taxpayer, and that they constitute but a logical development for accomplishing the ends for which the public library is maintained. But in recent years there has become evident a marked tendency towards innovations of a somewhat different nature. They are often grouped under the term library extension, which might be taken to imply that they extend beyond the field of library work in its strict sense. It is becoming increasingly common for lectures, not simply on library or literary topics, but popular courses on all manner of subjects, to be provided by libraries and occasionally delivered by the librarians themselves. Here and there, has been further adventuring in the field of direct instruction, with classes for children in science, for foreigners learning English, and even tentative correspondence courses. Exhibitions of all kinds are held by libraries, including not simply books, bind-

ings, and prints, but paintings, rugs, porcelains and other objects of art, frequently natural history specimens, flower shows, occasionally industrial displays or commercial exhibits; and some libraries have installed permanent museums. Story-telling for children on an elaborate scale has become not unusual, with the avowed purpose of interesting them in good literature, but sometimes conducted at playgrounds and other places where there is no distribution of books; and in general the work with children has been extended in manifold directions. We read here and there of games, dances, parties, particularly for the holidays, plays, aeroplane contests, athletic meets, and other entertainments, and children's clubs of many kinds. Such work is sometimes carried on by outside agencies in rooms furnished by the library; more often it is conducted by the library itself. One large library offered prizes to boys and girls making articles during the summer for exhibitions last fall; and exhibitions of model aeroplanes, bird houses and other results of manual training seem not infrequent. The adults, too, are not neglected. We are lending library halls freely for literary, educational, civic and charitable purposes, and to a growing extent for social gatherings and entertainments as well. Here a library has established a social center for young women where "all the various useful arts and handicrafts can be taught, free of charge," and there another has opened public debates each week on topics of timely interest with speakers chosen by the trustees. Photographs and prints of all kinds, music rolls, scores, lantern slides, phonographic records, which are often supplied for circulation, perhaps fall within the legal definition of book or writing, and the lending of historical and scientific specimens, and of stereoscopes, radiopticons, and lanterns, is a function that is closely allied. In one or two cities branch libraries are employed in friendly visiting among the

families of the neighborhood or for social service work with factory girls. One library is reported to maintain close relations with the probation officer and juvenile court; another publishes an excellent magazine giving much space to matters of civic and commercial interests; elsewhere libraries are said to be aiding in social surveys. Not only is the reading of foreigners fostered, but their welfare in other ways is looked out for. Semi-social gatherings are held, talks on citizenship sometimes planned, and in at least a few places, exhibitions of their handiwork have been arranged. Concert-giving by libraries with victrolas is becoming not unusual; and now we are introducing moving picture shows.

Most of the practices enumerated are as yet by no means common enough to be characteristic of the American public library; but whether general or sporadic, they are of sufficiently frequent occurrence to show a strong trend. It has been said by one friendly critic that librarians are peculiarly alert to social needs, and so eager to render all possible service, that once convinced of a real want in the community, they are prone to undertake to meet it without always considering whether the work falls properly within the sphere of the library or could be better conducted by some other agency. No doubt it is true that an institution like the public library which has developed so rapidly, with few hampering traditions, is especially pliable, and possibly extends its scope more readily than it might otherwise. But the truth is, as a matter of fact, somewhat larger, for the tendency seems but in keeping with the spirit of the times observable elsewhere in the church, in playgrounds and public centers of recreation and education of diverse sorts, and some critics hint, even in the school curricula. Yet, if these signs really mark the beginning of library evolution toward institutions of wider social activity, the path should be chosen consciously and with deliberation, for it

is obvious that the change is likely to affect the library itself profoundly—either for good or ill.

Some of the papers and discussions at the present conference will bear directly or indirectly on various phases of the questions which I have raised. It is not my purpose to anticipate by offering here my own conclusions. But I should like to plead that however occupied with executive cares, and whether engaged in supplying with books the *practical* needs of the community, or turning to work of wider social application, the librarian should never forget or slight what seems to me to be a primary duty of the public library, a service so fundamental that, as I shall try to show, it may be said without exaggeration, to touch the springs of our civilization itself.

For this twentieth century civilization of ours which the world so easily takes for granted, is nevertheless regarded with misgiving by many who examine its evolution and condition. Within the past two or three years alone, not a few thoughtful writers have questioned its solidity and permanence. The Italian historian, Ferrero; the brilliant English churchman, J. N. Figgis; A. J. Hubbard in his "Fate of empires," S. O. G. Douglas, Guy Theodore Wrench, Mrs John Martin—all are impressed with the transitoriness of the phenomena we know as civilization. Macaulay's famous New Zealander taking his stand on a broken arch of London bridge to sketch the ruins of St. Paul's, in his "vast solitude" may count at least on the ghostly fellowship of a goodly number of our contemporary writers who have been solicitous as to the laws of modern civilization and its decay.

Perhaps, the most interesting of these treatises is the immensely suggestive little volume in which the archaeologist, W. M. Flinders Petrie, has traced the rise, the flourishing, and the decay of eight successive civilizations in Egypt during a period of ten thousand years, and five distinct eras

of civilization in Europe from the early Cretan down through the classical and that of our own day. It is only in recent years that owing to the discovery and study of archaeological remains, it has become possible to take the long view. Hitherto, students have been confined largely to comparisons between our own civilization and the classical which immediately preceded it. Professor Petrie uses as criteria the development of the different arts, especially the period when each passes from a stage of archaism to a condition of full artistic freedom; and he finds that in all the civilizations he has presented, so far as discernible, the arts have reached their highest development in the same sequence. First comes sculpture, followed by painting, and then literature; these in turn are succeeded after a somewhat longer interval by the development of mechanics of science, and the results of applied science, or wealth. There appears to be a striking conformity, not only in the sequence, but roughly, in the relative time, suggesting that the same laws are operative throughout the entire period. The intervals between the successive waves of civilization as shown by the point when sculpture, the first of the arts, reaches the stage when it is fully freed from archaism, averages between thirteen and fourteen hundred years, with an apparent tendency towards lengthening in the case of the later civilizations. Our modern European civilization, according to Professor Petrie, reached the turning point of freedom in sculpture about 1240 A. D.; in painting, about 1400; in literature during the Elizabethan age, or about 1600; in mechanics possibly in 1890; while the full development in science and in the production of wealth is still to come.

Of course, I have not cited the interesting and ingenious conclusions of Professor Petrie, which are bristling with debatable points, nor referred to the works of the other authors, who differ much among themselves, as proving any definite theory of civilization.

I merely wish to impress on you the well recognized fact that civilization is an intermittent phenomenon. Nor can I personally see that our own civilization, though covering so much wider area than any which has preceded it, differs essentially from them, except in two respects. One of them is the possession of a religion so ennobling, that if its principles were valid in the hearts of men, it would seem in itself to afford a strong preservative at least against the corruption and ill living that accompany a decaying civilization. But one of the phenomena that all students point out is the weakening in our times of the hold of religion on the minds and actions of men. The other essential difference, as I see it, between our civilization and previous ones, lies in the remarkable development of the arts of communication. The facilities for travel by steamship and railroad, and for the transmission of information by mail and telegraph, have so united the world and brought into contact differing civilizations as to produce a condition without parallel in earlier ages.

But incomparably greater in its effect, is the ease of communication from mind to mind resulting from the invention of printing. One would be rash, indeed, to assume that this new force in the world, powerful though it be, and aptly termed the art preservative of arts, has yet within itself sufficient virtue to over-balance the laws which working through human nature for ages past have caused one great civilization after another to rise, reach its zenith, and decay. Yet, when we consider that not simply in preserving knowledge, but in diffusing it among the whole people, it has produced a condition of general enlightenment that has never before been known; and when we remember also the immense acceleration given to the renaissance of the very civilization we now enjoy through the recovery by scholars of the Greek manuscripts and classical texts, it may not be immoderate to hope that this great art of printing may have an incalculable influence in deep-

ening, strengthening, carrying higher, and prolonging this present wave of our civilization; and should this likewise be destined to recede, in alleviating man's intervening low estate and hastening the world's next great advance, and in carrying to the whole people the solid and more vital product of the printing press, no such agency has ever before existed as the modern free public library.

This, then, I conceive to be the great fundamental obligation of the public library, to make accessible to all men the best thought of mankind, whether it be found in the classic works of the older civilizations that preceded our own, or in the master intellects of a later day, or in the innumerable derivative writings of lesser minds. And this function is one that I trust may never be forgotten, however far it may seem well to extend the province of the library in other directions. While striving in every wise way to further the material or ephemeral interests of our communities, above all we as librarians should prize and cherish the things of the mind and of the spirit. Only those gifted by God can hope for the supreme joy of feeding the pure, white flame that lights man's pathway through the ages. Few they be and blessed. It is privilege enough for us to strive to hold aloft the light, and carry ourselves staunchly and worthily as torchbearers.

To grow a little wiser day by day,
To school my mind and body to obey,
To keep my inner life both clean and strong,
To free my life from guile, my hand from
wrong,
To shut the door on hate and scorn and
pride;
To open then to love the windows wide,
To meet with cheerful heart what comes to
me,
To turn life's discords into harmony,
To share some weary worker's heavy load,
To point some straying comrade to the
road,
To know that what I have is not my own,
To feel that I am never quite alone.

This would I pray from day to day,
For then I know my life will flow
In peace until it be God's will I go.

—Anonymous.

"Per Contra"*

Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress

There is an exposition across the bay. A feature of it is an attempt upon the part of various agencies for education, for culture, for comfort and for human welfare generally, to show what they are, to illustrate what they are doing, and in a measure to justify themselves. It is a sort of justification—of ourselves—that has been assigned to me today. For our President seems to think that the service we represent is not yet beyond cavil; that there are those who still question it, or who question it on new grounds. "More people are reading books," he remarks; "more books are in libraries and covering more subjects; more people are registered as users; more money is appropriated; new departments and new activities are being entered upon. Yet some critics cry out for the good old times when readers, though few, did not dilute their minds with so many ephemeral books, etc."

Now the argument of such critics is in the nature of a demurrer. Admit the increase in libraries, in books, in facilities, in readers: what of it? What does it prove? That more people are reading more books. Yes; but what of *that*?

Well, I am "not so sure." I am not sure of the answer. I am not absolutely sure that we are required to give it. A demurrer—in court—is to be decided by the judge, not by the jury. It involves a question of law, not of fact; a question, therefore, to be determined by principles and precedents, not by the unprofessional, inexpert and undisciplined impression of a group of men representing merely the average in experience and opinion, and without a permanent relation with the subject matter.

In the case of books, and of libraries to supply them freely at the public expense, the principles were enunciated, the precedents established, sixty-five

*Address before the A. L. A. Berkeley, June 4, 1915.

years ago. Is there to be no statute of limitations? If under them there has been this continuing and prodigious development, doesn't that fact in itself create a presumption very nearly conclusive? Doesn't it mean that we are at least an institution, with foundations cemented by the general judgment of the community?

If so, we ought not to be called upon to dig up those foundations and reset them whenever anyone questions their soundness. The upper structure is a different matter, and the annexes. These may have to be modified as the developing needs of the community may require. But the modifications will be of detail or of emphasis, or of relative accommodation. They should leave the fundaments unchanged.

For one fling at our libraries there are, I suppose, a half dozen at our universities. What of them? Does anybody seriously propose to discard our universities? Does anybody really doubt that the fundamental reason of them is sound; or deny that, taken by and large, they are supplying something which the community needs and must have? And does anybody really think attention is to be paid to the complaints against them, save as they concern mere systems or methods?

Complaints of system and of method are always to be expected, and are always in order, whatever the institution. They leave untouched the organs which are essential, and the *raison d'être* of the service itself.

When, therefore, a critic declares a college training "useless" we are apt to be amused or tolerant, or tolerantly amused. We fancy that he is arguing from one or two results under his personal observation: of a youth who was a born fool, and remained so in spite of a college course; of another who was born a genius, and came into his own in spite of the lack of it. And whenever another critic declares a public library "useless" because books are nowadays plentiful and cheap, and the people who really need them will buy

them, why not be contentedly amused at him?

But this latter critic goes further: he declares that the free supply of books may be actually injurious; that it deprives the ambitious of an incentive which is valuable—to save, and buy them himself. It also deprives the book itself of that added relish which comes of its acquisition through painful abstinence in some other direction. And finally, that the supply of books by our public libraries as actually operated, means the supply predominately of books that are educationally or culturally worthless, yet by their very profusion tend to enfeeble the mind, as an incessant diet of sweets may enfeeble the palate. Particularly the ephemerae. They are like the true ephemerae in nature which at certain seasons fall like snow upon the river. The fish gorge upon them till they become easy prey to the kingfisher. Or perhaps like the little book on Patmos: "And I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it up, and it was in my mouth sweet as honey; and as soon as I had eaten it my belly was bitter."

The physiology on which this latter complaint rests is doubtless sound. We do not deny it. What we question is the facts upon which the complaint is based, or the possibility of the alternatives which a deference to it would involve. That our libraries are buying much of the "Ephemera" of the day is true: are they, however, spending an excessive proportion of their funds in the acquisition of it? And is the tendency to spend more rather than less? Granting both—the fact and the tendency—what of the alternative? Shall they ignore wholly the predominant interest of the public in the literature which is "current"?

Our lives are contemporary. Our thoughts are the thoughts of today. Our actions are to affect the affairs of today. Our motives are the motives of today. Our contacts are contacts with the men of today and with the

things of today. We are indeed subject still to influences which are hereditary; but the influences of which we are conscious are the influences about us *now*; the facts, the people, the books, all that which constitutes our environment. It is these with which we take our start. They are the impulse, an ambition to influence them is the incentive; and it is the hope of influencing them more potently that is our chief motive in looking to the past at all.

The aid in this which the past can render is of great concern. It is the office of a library to make it available. No doubt it is, as President Wellman has pointed out, the prime and most important office. But a public library deals not merely with students preparing for life, but with men and women leading lives. It cannot go to them. What brings them to it is either some condition in their own lives, or some condition about them which they hope to improve, or to benefit by. These conditions are reflected or dealt with in the literature of today. If the library refuses to supply this, it fails to meet its readers on their own ground. And the distance between this ground and the past is a considerable one. It is difficult to bridge. If not bridged by the books themselves continuing into the present, the task falls upon the interpreting staff. But it will be a staff lacking apparatus. I take it, therefore, as unavoidable that a public library shall include literature of the day. The question is only: how much? And in what proportion? I do not see how it can avoid supplying many books and periodicals that will prove merely "ephemeral." It will certainly supply many far inferior to the "standards"; inferior in literary form, in intellectual power, in moral tone. It need not supply those admittedly debasing. But consciously it does not. This we assert and insist upon. And as to the other values it does draw a line. What the critic complains of is that this line

is not drawn high enough. What we answer is that it is being drawn higher with each developing year. And we point out that this effort is made possible by two developing features in administration: the prevalence of the system of "open access," insuring to the reader the direct contacts which enable the better books to make their own appeal; and the increased personal attention given to the reader by the staff, which recognizes him as a human being alive, in a living present, and meets and differentiates him accordingly.

The criticisms are always in general terms, and therefore vague. I have yet to see one based on statistics, one that named a single book supplied which ought not to be supplied. An excess of current fiction has always been alleged. And as to this statistics are quoted. They are always, however, statistics of circulation; and they overlook, what has frequently been pointed out, that the current novels are the small change of literature, and, therefore, being issued, read, and returned more rapidly, count more in the total than the so-called "serious," which is also the more deliberate, literature.

The detail of the complaint—that they serve no useful purpose to the reader himself—we can afford to ignore. I think it time that we did. The fair reason for reducing the number of them that we provide, or of eliminating them altogether, is a more practical one. It is, that the endeavor to supply them in adequate quantities to meet the interest of the moment, is futile; and that the mere profession of supplying them invites demands which are an expense to deal with even in the negative by answering that the book is "out;" and that the cost of administering the volumes which are actually acquired and supplied, is in itself excessive. For we must not forget that the cost of issuing a volume of fiction is as great as that of issuing a volume of history or philosophy; and if, as happens, the volume of fiction is issued

a hundred times in a year to the other's one, the cost will be multiplied accordingly.

It is on this ground and on this particularly that I am personally in favor of leaving the "current fiction"—that is all novels within one year after publication—to the subscription libraries. I have frequently said so; and have not changed my opinion. Such a course would alone, I believe, dispose of nine-tenths of the critics.*

That is, however, a mere detail. The omission would still leave a wide range of literature neither definitely instructive, nor in any way beneficial save to the judicious. But are we to regard solely the injudicious? Let us take courage from the Areopagitica: "if it be true that a wise man, like a good refiner, can gather gold out of the drossiest volume, and that a fool will be a fool with the best book, yea or without book, there is no reason that we should deprive a wise man of any advantage to his wisdom, while we seek to restrain from a fool that which, being restrained, will be no hindrance to his folly."

But people read too much! Particularly they read too many of the books that signify nothing because they require no effort on the part of the reader.

Certainly, they do. This is an age of print; and the schools—and the oculists—have given us the ability to take advantage of it. We are gregarious: it makes us citizens of the world. We are curious: it brings to us all the facts and phenomena of our time. We are self-conscious: it reflects us. We love gossip: it provides it, and food for it. We are—still—romantic. It supplies the romance. And we court excitement: it supplies that also. In some moods and states of exhaustion, of petulance or of despair, we crave mere distraction. To some among us this may be achieved by means of a master

*It was recommended by Mr Dana at the Niagara conference a dozen years ago. His paper there states the case tersely and with complete good sense.

book, a classic. They are fortunate. To the common run, if it can be achieved by a book at all, it will be only by a book contemporary with the reader: which takes the phenomena of life familiar to him and recomposes them so that they become dramatic; or sheds intelligence upon them so that they represent to him something significant which he had not before seen in them; or it changes his angle of vision; or it relates them in some sympathetic way to himself. Perhaps it may relate them also to that which is permanent in all literature. If so, the author has himself bridged over the gulf between the reader and the classics. He has interpreted the classics: but he has done so in a language which is intelligible, because it is the language of the reader himself.

For such an author the reader is the point of departure, and the present day. Equally must it be for the library.

But a profusion of books is so "enervating." So in a sense is a profusion of any other good thing. Civilization itself is enervating: it deprives us of the discipline of privation and hardship. Every luxury made available, every necessity made easy, means one less opportunity for the exercise of hardening virtues. I heard a physician remark that the tests and the instruments of precision which had made for the safety of modern surgery were ruining the faculties of observation in the medical profession. He meant, because they render the exercise of those faculties less necessary. Very likely. But the answer is that they *have* rendered modern surgery possible. As for the faculties of observation: other faculties—of reasoning, for instance, which deal with the results—have still their opportunity and their exercise.

"We value only what we have to work for." To be sure. To the toiler in a city sweatshop who secures his annual week in the country only by penurious self denial during the remaining fifty-one, the woods, the fields,

the birds, the very air are paradise. To the country boy who lives among them they are commonplaces of which he is unconscious. But this does not prove that they do not benefit him. The book secured by self denial has an added value: but it is a value added only in relation to the circumstances of the possessor. Its essential quality remains the same, and its potency, as if it came to him without effort.

The man of few friends sets a special store by each disproportionate to his merit. But the man of many friends may be more capable of valuing the few whom he makes his intimates: for the possession of the many enlarges and diversifies his sense of values.

The man limited to a narrow area may profit by the very necessity of making the most of his opportunities in an intensive way. But the man who can travel, and through travel secure varied contacts and experiences, is enlarging and diversifying not merely his sense of values but other elements in himself, very useful to him individually and as a citizen.

In mere power the man who keeps his thoughts, his passions, and his purposes within narrow confines, and conforms rigorously to them his acquaintance, his reading and his experience, surpasses: just as in mere power the stream confined between the narrow limits of a gorge excels an equivalent body of water spread out over wide and shallow areas. But the service of the latter may be the more benignant. There are times when the narrow and intense, rather than the broad and sympathetic, qualities are necessary to society. But those times—requiring the Puritan, one may even say, the fanatic—are times of stress and crisis. They are not the normal times of modern society.

So this very profusion of opportunity which modern civilization affords, has its compensations. It is relaxing—undoubtedly. It affects the mind as a Turkish bath affects the body. It opens all the pores. And the risk is the risk

of open pores: which is that they will let something in injurious to the system. To be more exact physiologically, it is that they will let something out which the system cannot spare. In the case of the body this is a certain vital warmth. In the case of the mind it may, I suppose, be either warmth, of energy and conviction, or that conscious power which comes of tense and sustained effort against a specific obstacle.

But civilization has still its obstacles. There are plenty of them: it is only their character which has changed, and the direction of the effort required. We may no longer have to fell the trees or uproot the stumps; but there will still be the soil to enrich, and the crops to diversify, and the question of markets, and the ultimate consumer.

The awe in which book-learning was once held extended to the books themselves. It has passed. We are now on easy terms with them. We treat them casually as we do mere acquaintance upon the street. We approach them for a word, a laugh, a mere nothing, and then pass on. We do not exhaust the opportunity. Others will occur. Still less do we "make up for it" as for a formal occasion.

Awe has its values: the loss of it is a loss of certain values. On the other hand the easy familiarities which displace it may bring some efficiencies very desirable. They may be merely social: but social efficiency is not to be disparaged, nor even social facility. To relax is also to expand.

So far as books are concerned, the present profusion goes along with other perilous profusions, of which most nearly analogous are the performed play, and the moving picture. Neither requires effort in the spectator, intellectual effort, that is to say. They are, however, facts. Vaudeville is a fact; and so is the "movie." Philosophizing, one would find much to deplore in them. It would not be their morality; for the most popular of them are those whose moral is unimpeach-

able. The worst that can be charged against them is vulgarity; and this charge lies against only a fraction of them.

But we must not forget that a large portion of each audience lives in an atmosphere even more "vulgar," and that in earlier times that portion would have had no experience at all outside of their particular environment. The play or the "movie" gives them such an experience. It may be merely emotional. If it appeals to their sense of humor it is also, in a measure, intellectual. It may at least widen their sympathies and quicken their imagination.

It requires no effort; it involves no discipline. This is a pity. Plays and pictures which would be intelligible and could be enjoyed only by the active exercise of the reasoning powers would certainly be more "educational". If we had only such plays, and only such examples in art, in music, and in literature; and the public would flock to them as they do to those actually provided, our republic might become an amplified Athens. But the others exist and appeal, and the vast majority of the public to whom they appeal and who by supporting render them possible, is of people who in Athens would have formed no part of the audiences: for we must not forget that of that entire community it was but ten thousand—the "upper classes"—alone who were privileged to such experiences.

The participation in them of the rest of the community—of the community as a whole—is a phenomenon only of our day. That is true of the plays and the pictures. It is true of the books. With this difference—of moment to us: that where the books are to be supplied by an agency acting as we do in behalf of the community as a whole, and at its expense, there are certain responsibilities. They involve certain standards, variable, but progressive. The moral standard is already, I think, amply recognized. The intellectual is recognized as far as contemporary con-

ditions permit. There remains the question of taste. And it is as to this in books, as in the play and the moving picture, that the opportunity for improvement chiefly lies.

Taste isn't something which may be handed a man. Knowledge may be; but not taste. It isn't something which, having got, he merely possesses. Rather it possesses him. It is the man himself: a unit, in the sum total of his sensibilities.

It is subjective: it cannot be dictated to. But it may be influenced. The sure influence is association and a progressive experience; for the improvement cannot be abrupt, it can only be gradual.

In our reading public the hope of improvement lies, I believe, in the two influences I have mentioned: the freer direct contact with the books themselves, attracting to new experiences: and increasing mediation between them and the reader by the librarian who, knowing them, relates them to the needs of the reader as a present day human being. It is in efficiency in this human relation rather than in catalogs and classification, and the other instruments of precision, that our distinctive opportunity as librarians now lies. It is this which is now having our attention as never before. Concern for it has taken the place of the concern for mere system and apparatus that excited us forty years ago: in that second stage of our development, when mere expansion of the opportunity for the reader having become assured, our zeal turned to the perfection of systems and apparatus, and we were in danger of losing sight of the religion in the mere ritual. We recognize now that those mechanical devices, while necessary, are merely devices. They are to be utilized; but they are to lead the reader to the book, not to be consciously interposed between him and the book. They are to be a gateway, not a barrier. They are also in a way, a guide. But the main guide must be the librarian himself, herself. The first con-

tact should be with him, and so far as practicable, this should continue, until the final contact with the author has been assured. The qualities that it demands include some not characteristic of the librarian of the older school. The qualities he had were in some respects admirable. But the readers he had to meet were a limited, a select class. They approached him endowed already with appreciations. The impulses he responded to were already existing: he did not have to create them.

The modern librarian of a public library (and it is the ordinary public library I am speaking of throughout) has often to create the impulse as well as to direct it. The old time librarian was contemporary with the past. The present day librarian must not forget to be contemporary also with the present. He must be informed not merely as to the book, but as to the reader. He must understand him and what actuates him. For this, he must have the widest possible familiarity with the affairs, the interests, the influence of today: a familiarity gained not by formal education, but by travel and by varied social contacts. In quite a new measure, therefore, is it necessary that our librarians shall secure these; and not merely the librarian-in-chief, but the entire interpreting staff. With them, with the fundamental education back of them, with the temperament and the instinct for service; as human beings part of your own time in thought and feeling, but as librarians infused also with the thought and feeling of *all* time, you have opportunities for service not surpassed by that of any other profession, and certainly not vouchsafed to former generations of our own.

And the distinctive opportunity is incident to the very conditions which the critics deplore. For if this present age is profuse, and superficial it is also alert, eager and impressionable. You can aid it to exact knowledge, clear and discriminate thinking, and the

choice of the better reason. That is the prime office of books and of libraries. In the promotion of morality and of taste, however, their service is chiefly auxiliary, and you must refuse to admit them accountable as if the only responsible agency. The prime agencies are clean and comely homes, decent standards in business and civics, and whatever is refining in art, architecture, music and the drama. Let the community see to those and it may count upon the public library for its due share in co-operation with them.

How Far Should the Library Aid the Peace Movement and Similar Propaganda?*

George F. Bowerman, librarian, Public library, Washington, D. C.

I suppose it may be taken for granted that the members of no other profession could have been more surprised and shocked at the outbreak of the great European war than were American librarians. Living in an atmosphere of peace and good will and enlisted in the work of spreading enlightenment, joined by many strong ties with our professional colleagues in other lands, we had assessed the spirit of the world to be in harmony with the spirit of our profession and with the American spirit, strong for universal peace, and had thought that the world had become sufficiently civilized so that war, or at least a great continental war, involving the most advanced European peoples, was no longer possible. Even now it hardly seems comprehensible that many of the European libraries are either closed or are running shorthanded because librarians are serving with armies in the field, where they are fighting their professional colleagues of other nations, being killed or maimed or contracting diseases that will cut short their careers. Almost incredible also is it that the great library of the University of Louvain should have been destroyed

in war in this the twentieth century. It is all so bewildering as almost to defy belief.

Although our country has happily kept out of the war through the wise leadership of the President and the fundamental devotion to peace of our people, yet the country in general has suffered heavily, and many American libraries in particular have had appropriations much curtailed as a result of the business depression brought on by the war. With our sympathies aroused and our professional interest enlisted, ought we to allow an annual meeting of our national association falling while the war is still in progress to pass without asking whether there is anything that we librarians and the libraries we represent can do to further the cause of international peace, whether we can assist in bringing about the peace that shall last, that will make all wars impossible, unthinkable? I am sure that we librarians "look forward," in the words of William James, "to a future when acts of war shall be formally outlawed among civilized peoples." How far is the library justified in going and what specific methods are we as librarians justified in taking to help in causing this view to be generally accepted?

In attempting to answer these questions it is desirable first to lay down certain principles that should guide the library in its attitude toward propaganda in general and then to inquire whether there are any special considerations that may properly affect our attitude toward the peace movement.

The librarian is constantly confronted with demands for the purchase of books and magazines, the offer of free copies of books, magazines and pamphlets issued on one side or the other of controverted questions, cults and isms. The main guiding principle should be that of interested neutrality. The library seeks complete enlightenment on the part of its constituency and to that end affords the fullest possible representation to both sides, to all sides of every controverted ques-

*Read before A. L. A. at Berkeley, June 9, 1915.

tion. The library should encourage a broad and liberal spirit of free inquiry; its purpose is not to restrain but to foster comprehensive curiosity. The offers of literature or the requests for its purchase may have propaganda in mind; the proponents very probably intend to use the machinery of the library, expensive to the public but cheap for their use, for the dissemination of their own views. The library in lending itself to such use is not playing into the hands of the propagandist, but is rather availing itself of offers and requests to supply the inquiring and curious public, interested in subjects of current discussion, with material for the study of the questions at issue. Care should of course be taken when material representing one side only is offered, to procure the best material on the other side, together with the writings of capable neutral critics, if such exist. Even though the subjects of discussion may sometimes seem relatively unimportant or even at times rather foolish to the matter-of-fact librarian, the library cannot best meet the needs of the public unless it furnishes such material. The library wishes to be fair and escape the criticism of being narrow-minded or biased. Some subjects which provoke only a smile or faint interest among sophisticated persons like librarians, may be of surpassing interest to certain readers of character and standing in the community.

This position of hospitable impartiality is, I believe, the proper attitude of the librarian toward the many controverted questions with which he is constantly dealing, such as vivisection, vaccination, Roman Catholicism, Christian Science, socialism, the single tax, the recall, capital punishment, immigration restriction, prohibition and woman suffrage. The individual librarian, or member of a book committee, may have strong opinions on some or all of these subjects; he may be superior in his personal attitude toward some of them and hostile toward

others; officially, however, he must be sympathetic toward various points of view, for they are vital questions to large sections of the community, and to ignore them is to render a public library unresponsive to the needs of its public.

The work that librarians may appropriately do with respect to a sharply controverted question may be well illustrated by what has been done by them in the case of the present war, involving as it has disputes over causes, atrocity charges, infractions of international law, etc., on the one hand and an American public divided in its sympathies on the other. Ever since its outbreak the public has been closely following the war, not only by means of the newspapers, but numerous readers have flocked to libraries to study with eagerness books, reviews, and controversial pamphlets. The war has created an entire new and voluminous literature that libraries have properly collected and made available, in many cases by means of maintaining a series of special shelves devoted to material about the war. Several libraries have printed for distribution reading lists, compiled in their own libraries, or have distributed the list issued by the *Publisher's Weekly*. In gathering this material, libraries have collected widely and impartially, in order to afford the amplest opportunity for the forming of independent judgments. The wise librarian has utilized this occasion to bring to the attention of his readers not only material about the immediate and controverted questions at issue, but also books about the historical aspects of the controversy, about the conditions in times of peace in the nations involved, and also especially the literature of peace and international arbitration.

How far should the library definitely promote the peace movement itself, if at all? Should its attitude be strictly that which it occupies toward any other controverted question? If so, the peace advocate may hope much

from what the library can do, for it is believed that the literature favorable to peace and international arbitration is far stronger than that opposed to peace. Simply for the library to possess full resources on both sides of the question and to exploit it by displays, annotated lists and the other usual methods will of itself powerfully aid the peace movement. This war has forcibly dragged the question out of the academic shades where it has for the most part previously rested and made it the most vital question before the bar of the world's opinion. It can no more be neglected than can the question of the cost of living. Every library at all responsive to public questions must provide full resources and make them available to the public. That of itself inevitably promotes the peace movement.

But I believe that the library is justified in occupying a more advanced position on this particular controverted question. It is likely that few librarians or library trustees, whatever their individual opinions may be, would *officially* advocate omission to provide for suitable national defense, or for proper development of army and navy and other elements of preparedness, at least until such time as armies and navies, if retained at all, are made into international military and naval police forces. These are immediate questions of public policy with which he has nothing *officially* to do. I believe however, that it is entirely in consonance with the purpose of the library, as an integral part of the public educational system, as an institution devoted to the spread of democracy and the promotion of enlightenment, as an institution with books in many languages, containing information about all the people of the world, and as an institution with many international friendships with librarians and other scholars throughout the world, to promote in every suitable way the strongest ties of international friendship.

Librarians are also interested in peace and should, I believe, promote it as a matter of self-preservation. Many observers have predicted that the present war will cease only with the complete economic exhaustion of one or more of the combatant nations. In any event the rehabilitation of all of the countries involved will be a long and painful process. Money spent on armies and navies and for interest on piled up debts cannot be spent for social objects or for education; and since the library is perhaps the youngest and least considered of all educational agents, it will doubtless suffer most from the enforced economies resulting from war preparations. We are told that more than 70% of the income of our own national government is spent on wars past and future. Can anyone doubt that library appropriations would be larger if military and naval expenditures were smaller?

Most librarians would agree not only that war and preparations for war are entirely at variance with the purposes for which the library exists, but that war versus peace is no longer a controverted question of public policy at all. It is rather a question of fundamental ethics: is the world willing to go on sanctioning a system that puts all of the resources of modern technical science into commission for wholesale murder and theft? The failure to adopt at the close of the present war some plan that will eliminate war from the earth except as a measure of punishment by an international police force would be to postpone the time when the library may hope to do its full work.

We, the librarians of today, want to see the scope of the library enlarged instead of having it kept to its present narrow limits. We want to see libraries have larger and better paid staffs in order adequately to meet present demands. We need money to foster larger demands on the part of the public. Both as citizens and as librarians we want to see promoted all

of the other movements that make for social well-being and enlightenment, knowing that thereby the opportunities and demands for our own work will most surely be enlarged. The reduction of the burden of armaments offers, I believe, the best hope for the expansion of the library and of library work.

Although I have been arguing that the library by reason of its essential character as well as because of self-interest ought definitely to promote the peace movement, yet I do not think that the specific measures I shall advocate will prove unacceptable even to those librarians and library trustees who conceive the peace movement as strictly falling within the field of controverted questions. In proposing that the library stress the peace movement there is no suggestion of neglect to provide the fullest possible resources for the study of literature favoring war and controverting pacifist arguments.

In an enumeration of the ways in which the library can appropriately aid the peace movement I should put foremost the efficient and liberal development of the library itself and the compelling extension of its resources to the entire reading population. If only the library is generously stocked with travel literature, books in foreign languages and literatures, technology, fine arts, economics, sociology and history; if it has branches and other agencies and expert administration so that it is really used by approximately the entire population, it becomes a great leavening influence, improving the economic efficiency of the population, increasing their general enlightenment, counteracting the jingoism of the yellow journal, making good Americans of recent immigrants and increasing the sympathetic interest of persons of American birth in foreign lands and peoples. The great agent for the amalgamation of those of foreign birth is the public school and the library is or should become its strong right arm. In other words, if the library is able by proper support to cease being a static

institution simply responding to calls made upon it and can become a dynamic institution that shall reach out and influence the entire population and join in a big way in the forward social movements, it can powerfully influence public opinion. Who can doubt that this influence would be for general progress, including international peace?

It must be confessed that some of the influence of the library has been in the direction of fostering warlike sentiments. Many of the books, most popular in libraries, fiction, juvenile books and histories, glorify war and inflame international hatreds. I make no suggestion of a censorship that would eliminate such books. It is desirable, however, that libraries should furnish an ample stock of the books that depict the horrors of war and that they should encourage the writing of books of history that record the work of heroes of peace and that recognize the fact that real history is a record of the development of pacific civilization and international harmony. The Carnegie endowment for international peace might well enlist some geniuses in the work of writing masterpieces of fiction for adult and juvenile readers, books that will do for the cause of peace what "Uncle Tom's cabin" did for the slavery question. It is a perfectly fair proposition, I believe, for the library as an educational institution to stress such a part of its collection. Of course it goes without saying that the library should have the best possible stock of books on international law and on the economic and social phases of war and peace.

The literature of peace, internationalism and war, may well be exploited by the methods already mentioned and by the publication of lists such as those issued by the Brooklyn public library in 1908 (57 pages), by the public libraries of Boston, Denver, Salem and Buffalo, by the Library of Congress and the Wisconsin free library commission. The American association for international conciliation has issued two lists

on "Internationalism" compiled by Mr Frederick C. Hicks and has distributed them to libraries generally. Mr Hicks also prepared and the American association issued two or three years ago about a dozen "Best book catalog cards," each card listing with annotation, several titles of books and periodicals on various phases of the peace question. These cards have been inserted in the card catalogs of a large number of American libraries. This work should be continued. The American association has issued for free distribution a reference list and a syllabus for the study of international polity by Dr John Mez. It is also believed that the American peace society and the other American peace agencies would, if the American library association or any considerable number of American libraries should make the suggestion, issue a brief and a comprehensive annotated list of books on peace in very large editions for distribution by libraries to their readers. The call for literature on the peace question in libraries is already large. The distribution of such lists would stimulate such calls.

Librarians might well let it be known to the Carnegie endowment and the local peace societies that they would welcome lectures and debates on the peace questions in their lecture halls in their main libraries and branches. In common with most lectures given in library auditoriums they need not be directly under library auspices but might be under the patronage of the peace societies. The public library is now generally becoming a feature in the social and civic center movement by which public school buildings are coming to be used for public lectures, meetings and debates. Here are opportunities for the popularization of knowledge of the peace movement and for library coöperation in furnishing the literature for the study of the question.

The story-telling now done in library children's rooms or in schools by children's librarians, or with library co-

öperation, offers another opportunity for implanting peace ideas in the minds of coming citizens. If heroes of war form the subject of the stories, care should be taken not to leave the idea that war of today is the romantic thing it may possibly have been once, or more probably never was except in the minds of the romancers. Perhaps the horrors of war should not be detailed to younger children, but the deeds of heroes of peace might well be utilized in story-telling. More material in the interest of peace suitable for story-telling should be published. It ought also to be listed in bibliographies for children's librarians and teachers and for the children themselves. Something has been done in this direction in the publication by the New York public library of its pamphlet list entitled "Heroism."

The scope of the American school peace league might well be enlarged to include the library. One of its objects is to secure the writing of histories for children which will be truthful but will not unduly emphasize international and racial antipathies. The library surely needs such help, should use it and might well join in the movement.

So far as I am aware, this is the first time that the relation of the library to the peace question has ever been specifically discussed at a meeting of the American library association. The New York library club devoted a meeting in November, 1912, to the subject. The speakers were President Nicholas Murray Butler, Prof Samuel T. Dutton and others who discussed the movement generally, the literature of peace, the library and peace, international bureaus of information and the international exchange and loan of books. I believe that the topic ought frequently to appear on the programs of the national and of local library associations.

If the practical suggestions here offered seem few, it should be stated that the purpose of my address is more to enlist librarians and the library in

the cause of peace than to point out specific measures, to appeal to the spirit rather than definitely to outline the practical. If I have offered sufficiently convincing arguments that the library may properly assist in this movement, appropriate measures will suggest themselves to alert librarians.

Even if the advocates of internationalism should at the close of this war see their dreams realized by the establishment of a supreme international tribunal and the stable development of a body of international law enacted by regularly recurring sessions of the Hague peace conference, by the organization of a League of peace, a Federation of the world or a World state, the task of making any such plan work, of holding any such organization together when some crisis arises or of securing the acceptance of the decrees of any such international tribunal would be a difficult case. In order to be successful, behind the world organization and the international court there must be the sympathetic world spirit. This can only be secured by education, in which the library should have an increasingly large part.

Bulletins and Library Printing*

Everett R. Perry, librarian, Los Angeles public library

Library service is disinterested effort to propagate the best of the world's written thought. The library bulletin can be made one of the most powerful means we have of directing the reading of the people away from the mediocre, the trivial and the casual and acquainting them with the best.

The most powerful advertisement a good book can receive is the personal word of commendation from friend or acquaintance—the suggestion even of library attendant. Next to this personal touch, though of far less influence is the annotation or book review. If these are to attain to any real influence in our library bulletins, I am convinced from re-

cent thought on this subject that we must make decided changes in the form in which we put them before the public. Our bulletins, as a means of advertisement, as an effort to allure the general public to read our books, are indeed a joke. When the average reader comes into our public libraries, he wanders around among the book shelves till a familiar author's name or some appealing title strikes his eye, answering for him temporarily the recurring question "What shall I read next?" We librarians know well that our wonderful card catalogs are for students and for ourselves, they do little to solve this eternal question of the desultory reader. To meet this phase of our problem, we need all the assistance supplementary to personal service that our library bulletins can give us.

Let us follow our average reader as he gets his book charged and prepares to depart. He sees the woman just in front of him pick up one of a pile of printed booklets on the desk, library bulletins free to the public. He reaches for one as instinctively as we open our hands to a circular or a tract thrust into them on the street. He does not really want one, he has picked them up before, but he yields to the suggestion in their being there and free. On the way home in the street car, he may glance at it. If it is of the usual type, he finds on the front page an array of information that stirs no interest in him, the library location, the list of trustees, the librarian's name, the enumeration of branch libraries, followed, perhaps, by library regulations which in a general way he thinks he knows, luckily never having broken any of them. He turns the page and here he finds more unsought information, an array of statistics, in fact a whole page of tabulation of things in which librarians are much interested. Finally begins a list of books, frequently headed "Recent accessions." His eye flits down the page—"General works," "Philosophy," "Religion." The list begins with the classes that typify to him the "dry as dust." Each title is followed, perhaps, by hieroglyphics which only librarians under-

*Abstract from address before A. L. A., Berkeley, June 3, 1915.

stand. Perhaps he will find the books listed in the order of a dictionary catalog, and if he chances to be interested in the newest additions in drama or art, he can not find them. Does he turn the page? No, his attention is caught by an extremely clever advertisement above the windows on the opposite side of the car, and he studies the whole line of them for the rest of the way home. Perhaps he leaves the bulletin on the seat behind him discarded like a newspaper whose head lines he has scanned. He may have gotten something from the head lines, but what from the bulletin? Do we put the vital, important part of our bulletins into our head lines at all? Do we even take the trouble to make head lines or put anything else on the front page which shall arouse interest or appeal to the readers whom we need most to reach? Our bulletins present the appearance of being written, not for readers, but for other librarians, who presumably can endure dullness.

Short articles on books worth reading, or lessons on the use of the library might well be given in them from time to time, written up in a thoroughly readable way. Fling a question to your readers across the cover of your bulletin. "If you should want to know the history of the early California land grants, how would you use your library to find it?" In a short paragraph, recount the steps for tracking down the desired information. Such suggestions point the way. Let us employ the opportunity of our bulletins to expand the readers' conceptions of the range of the library's usefulness. Quote half a dozen typical questions which have been telephoned to the library during the previous month. There is an astonishing number of people who do not know that the library stands ready to answer such questions. Make a "feature" of your front page in some way. Even the short eight-page bulletin of the smaller libraries can put together some timely list of books or magazine articles and call attention to its contents by a front page announcement. "Books about the war," or whatever the list may be.

We should aim, I believe, to make our front page just as attractive as possible; and put our information at the end. The person who wants information will look for it.

As to the book list itself, I am convinced that our method of arranging the classes according to the Decimal classification is a mistake, that the class which contains the most important additions should come first, and with annotations. Let us list fewer of our new books, if necessary, but bring forward the best of them, and let them be annotated. Let the entry be brief—author, title, date and call number are sufficient. If we care to make our lists attractive, we must make them simple, we must suppress the technical.

I will here quote Mr E. L. Pearson, who says: "It seems to me hardly necessary to argue that all the curious signs, symbols, abbreviations and mystic marks, which are thought necessary in a catalog are out of place in a bulletin for public use." He deals with another point on which I am entirely in accord with him, the form of the author's name in our bulletins. "A cataloger," he says, "likes to call Arnold Bennett, Enoch Arnold Bennett, and then if the name is given in subject fullness in the bulletin, he becomes E. A. Bennett, a total stranger to even well-informed readers of books. In the same way Ellen Key, for whom the catalogers have discovered two or three unknown and useless names, gets in a bulletin as E. G. X. Y. Z. Key, or something similar, and is, therefore, totally disguised." Speaking of his own paper the *Branch Library News* of the New York public library, he says, "The entry is now simply the name of the author in its best known form; we do not use Kitchener, Hubert Horatio, 1st Viscount, but simply Kitchener, Lord, and strange as it may seem, everybody knows whom we mean by it."

There are not a few library bulletins which contain advertisements. Personally I believe it better to wait until a dignified sheet can be afforded than to compromise in this way. Monthly bulletins

are to be preferred to those appearing quarterly, so much of the value of these publications consisting in their timeliness.

We shall still fail of the greatest effect if we do not issue a typographically attractive publication. Your local printer should be able to advise; if not, follow the model of some bulletin which presents a page pleasing in appearance and easy to read.

Might it not be well, considering that very few of our libraries can afford to print bulletins sufficient for all subscribers to make some effort to see that those we do print get into the hands of people who really want them? At present they lie on our desks and are taken away by those who happen first to come within our doors. Might not a card reading "Library bulletin may be obtained free upon request," deter the indifferent from carrying them home to their waste baskets? Might not a conspicuously-placed simply-gotten up poster advertising the contents of the bulletin give it a special value, and stir up some of the indifferent? The problem of each library bulletin is an individual one, and here is one of the rare fields where it is safe to experiment.

War Literature

Dear Editor:

If PUBLIC LIBRARIES will favor me again so soon, I would like to say that since my note appeared in the June issue, I have received a number of Public library lists, which show that many libraries now introduce the heading, "European war," as a regular feature. The Enoch Pratt free library of Baltimore issued in September, 1914, a four page list entitled, "A select list of books on the warring nations of Europe, together with a few titles on international law, war, government, politics and history."

From Mr E. A. Hardy, secretary of the Ontario library association, I have received a 12 page list, well annotated, entitled, "The present war," a catalog of recommended books for libraries in

continuation and high schools and collegiate institutes. Printed by order of the legislative assembly of Ontario, L. K. Cameron, Printer, Toronto, 1915.

From G. E. Stechert & Co., New York City, I have received two reprints from Hinrich's *Halb-jahrs-Katalog*, "Die deutscher Kriegsliteratur," Part 1—to December 1914, 22 p.; Part 2—December, 1914 to February, 1915, 24 p., also List of publications bearing on the war, published by the Central committee for national patriotic organization, 62 Charing Cross, London, W. C., 30 p. price, two pence.

Dr Arthur E. Bostwick, librarian of the St. Louis public library, suggests that:—

The librarians in the United States collectively ought to have pretty nearly everything that is issued. Perhaps after the war is over, if it ever does come to an end, we can get together and publish a union list.

This is a very interesting suggestion and I hope it will be carried out.

In the list on war literature, in June PUBLIC LIBRARIES, the reference to the Boston public library should read: "A selected list of books relating to the European crisis in the Public library of the City of Boston." August, 1914, 10 p. See also monthly *Bulletin*.

The New York Public Library reference should read: "Bulletins for November and December, 1914; February, 1915 and following."

Miss Bacon's list in S. B. Sheip's "Hand book of the war," is also to be noted.

LOUIS N. WILSON.

Clark University library.

June 8, 1915.

Books on How Moving Pictures Are Made and Shown

- Grau—Stage in the twentieth century.
- Hepworth—Animated photography.
- Hite—How to become a successful moving picture machine operator.
- Hopwood—Living pictures.
- Hulfish—Cyclopedia of motion picture work.
- Richardson—Motion picture handbook.
- Talbot—Moving pictures.

Public Libraries

MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Library Bureau	- - - - -	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	- - - - -	Editor
Subscription	- - - - -	\$2 a year
Five copies to one library	- - - - -	\$8 a year
Single number	- - - - -	25 cents
Foreign subscriptions	- - - - -	\$2.25 a year

Entered as second-class matter May 17, 1896, at the Post office at Chicago, Ill., under act of March 3, 1879.

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an Exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates.

Vacation time

Another year has rolled around, and vacation season is at hand. PUBLIC LIBRARIES again wishes its readers and friends a pleasant vacation in the time that will elapse before it next appears.

Illinois legislation—Twenty minutes before midnight of the day fixed by the Illinois legislature for final consideration of bills, the House concurred in the provisions of the Senate measure known as the Library bill. Thus comes to a successful termination, if Gov Dunne signs the act, a campaign waged intermittently for a quarter of a century to place the public libraries of Illinois on a solid financial footing. The Public library of Chicago will receive by the terms of the new law 50 per cent more revenue annually, approximating \$200,000; other public libraries of the state 66 2/3 per cent more than heretofore. The improved status of some of the

larger libraries of the state is indicated by the subjoined table.

	Amount present	Amount new rate
	rate 1.2 mills	2 mills
Peoria	\$20,613	\$34,355
Joliet	9,000	15,392
Decatur	9,417	15,696
Galesburg	8,000	13,960
Evanston	14,364	23,942
Cairo	4,466	7,444
Aurora	11,198	18,664

The assessed valuation of Rockford is so large that the trustees have not found it necessary to ask for the full millage. Ottawa enjoys a substantial endowment fund, and is thus also favorably situated. In most of the other cities of Illinois, the new rate of two mills will come as a great relief, enabling needed expansion of book collections, time schedules and staffs and preventing enforced closing of institutions for a part of the year. The new rate of one mill for the city of Chicago promises an opportunity for great development in that vast field, where for a half decade past, bricks have been made without straw, but with surprising facility—as shown by a gain in circulation from 1,800,000 in 1909 to 4,300,000 in 1914.

The gratifying result achieved in Illinois is attributable to a well-planned and unremitting campaign that enlisted the hearty coöperation of the State association, the trustees and library officials concerned, women's clubs, civic organizations, the press, and many public-spirited citizens.

"Much goes bravely into the legislature, and much less come limping out," was the editorial comment of a local paper on the work of the legislature.

Heretofore, attempted library legislation has not come out even limping. It was not without discouragements that the final passage of the Library bill was secured this year. A firm and united front prevented lame compromises and defeat.

It is a New Day for the libraries of Illinois.

H. L.

Library needs in Illinois—The news of at least two more Illinois librarians, graduates of the library school, going into adjoining states to do library work, emphasizes again the great mistake that is being made in Illinois in allowing the strong library workers of the state to go into other communities when their services are so badly needed in Illinois.

One can readily think of a dozen towns in Illinois that are decidedly backward in the quality and extent of library service which they furnish to the community in which they are situated. There are several reasons for this; politics in some cases, personal relationship in others, and lack of appreciation on the part of the trustees in others, which latter is largely expressed in meager amounts secured for the maintenance of the library.

In the states surrounding Illinois, there are librarians who by birth and upbringing belong here, but who, because of greater appreciation of what their work means by other communities, are giving fine service to the upbuilding of library power in communities outside the state.

How long this will be allowed to continue, is a question, but the time has come when something ought to be done to organize an intelligent interest in the minds of the trustees of the public libraries of Illinois, and a realization of

the backwardness of their communities in library service, as compared with other communities which are being better served. There is little or no excuse for this condition, except the indifference toward the matter on the part of those who ought to help better conditions.

One of the problems which needs attention at the earliest moment, is how to improve some of these backward libraries. This can be done very easily if the trustees in charge of the library have their eyes opened to the situation in their own community as compared with other communities of a similar kind that are very much further advanced.

There are some libraries that are doing splendid work, but they are doing it at the expense of the nervous force and personal devotion of the librarians.

There are still some communities where trustees and librarian are working harmoniously, intelligently and successfully, and where the library is a distinct part of the process of public education.

Those in charge and in touch with library affairs cannot afford to rest content in the matter until the worst is as good as the best, and the best is much better than it is.

A. L. A. for 1915—It did not seem "a long way to California" in view of the splendid care the travel committee took of the party that traveled together.

It did not seem "a long way to California" as one met the enthusiastic library workers of the Coast. Not for a long time has the A. L. A. met in an environment as alive to the things for which the library stands, nor where so

much professional zeal and spirit abounded. The special party were pleased with what they saw in Denver and Salt Lake City, but the state of California took the palm for uniform advancement, for *esprit de corps* and for optimism in library work.

The meetings were fairly prompt in beginning, the proceedings ran smoothly and ended on time. The few persons who were absent from their places on the program were heard by proxy, always a thing to be deplored. There was not much discussion. More would have been enjoyable.

The meetings were well attended and the audiences were made up almost entirely of "the younger generation."

Altogether it was a successful meeting and certainly a most enjoyable occasion.

Southern Conference for Education and Industry **Library conference**

The meetings of the Library conference, Southern conference for education and industry, were held April 27-29, in the County court house, Chattanooga, Tennessee. An effort was made on the part of those in charge of the program to give all possible publicity to the library conference. An hour was chosen when there were no conflicting meetings, and the program for each day's library conference was the first on the list of afternoon sessions. As a consequence of this prominence and the practical value and interest of the papers read, the audiences were much larger than heretofore. The room was crowded at each meeting and many stood. The discussions following the papers were interesting and taken part in by teachers anxious to secure the help of libraries and librarians.

The program for the three days' session was composed of the following

papers: "The rural library as a community builder," the Hon. P. P. Claxton, U. S. Commissioner of education; "Free public libraries in the South," Mrs Pearl William Kelley; "The county library," Mrs Saida Brumback Antrim; "How we provided every rural school in our counties with a library," Mrs Sue C. Cleaton; "High school libraries in every city in the South," C. C. Certain, with Miss Jennie M. Flexner leading the discussion. Mr Certain's paper resulted in the passing of a motion providing for the appointment of a committee on High school libraries. The scope of this committee was enlarged so that its object will be the establishment of libraries in every high school, rural and city, throughout the South.

An exhibit of furnishings and suggested activities for high school libraries was provided and created much interest.

The business meeting was held on Thursday, April 28. Mr George T. Settle, librarian, Louisville free public library, was re-elected president and Mrs Pearl William Kelley, Director of library extension, Department of education, Nashville, Tenn., was elected secretary for the coming year.

Resolutions of thanks were extended to the Chattanooga public library for the assistance which they so kindly rendered, and for the many courtesies extended. A vote of thanks was extended to Mrs Saida Brumback Antrim and Dr Ernest I. Antrim of Van Wert, Ohio, for their active interest and their participation in the programs and the discussions of the library conference.

JENNIE M. FLEXNER.

One of the surest keys to success lies in thoroughness. No matter how great may be the enterprise undertaken, a regard for the small things is necessary. Just as the little courtesies of every-day life make life worth the living, so the little details form the bone and sinew of a great success.

The Child in the School and in the Library*

Willis H. Kerr, librarian, Kansas state normal school, Emporia, Kansas

There is to be a new American education. The school is to do more and better. The child is to be better educated, hand, head, heart, and soul. Society is to be saner, more healthful, stronger and cleaner in industry and government. The church is only extending its grip.

It is for the library to say, by its attitude, whether in all this its part shall be large or small. When we show our educational brethren how large is the library's legitimate and effective part, we shall have their enthusiastic appreciation and coöperation. When we make the public understand that large part, we shall have unlimited public support. But unless we "lengthen our cords and strengthen our stakes," ours shall be that small part of complacent self-admiration.

The child in the school is being thoroughly measured and surveyed. Long since he was elaborately analyzed, classified, and recapitulated. And "still the wonder grows that one small head can carry all he knows." He is still inscrutable.

Just now there is uncertainty in the educational ranks. New ideas, new principles, new materials have been brought into the educational process; the reaction is not yet completed. In the meantime practice varies widely, and the confusion seems to be greater than it is. For while pedagogies and psychologies perish, the child persists. He is the constant factor in all educational agencies—school, library, playground, church, and home. As the future man and citizen, amidst all the fluctuations of opinion and practice, the child is the one thing worth while. By its attitude toward the child and his education, the library defines its own field of usefulness. You believe in children, don't you?

*Read before A. L. A., Berkeley, June 3, 1915.

Perhaps it is safe to predict that in the new educational synthesis at least the following principles will gain rather general acceptance:

First, minds cannot be divided up into little pigeonholes; subjects of study or knowledge cannot be separated sharply from all others; children cannot be graded into exact mental sizes (as egg, nut, or lump coal) or into arbitrary mental qualities (as No. 1 hard, No. 2, or no grade wheat).

Second, all knowledge is not contained in books. The spoken word as well as the written may be one of the "King's gardens." Nature also is to be read as a book.

Third, although education must be for the masses and in masses, the individual child must be understood and trained.

Fourth, although rather more rigorous standards than ever before are to be set up, the great educating force is to be personality rather than precept.

It is my purpose to ask what meaning these four observations may have for library work with children and schools and teachers. And yet, may it not be that here too, the "child is father of the man?" Unity of mind and of knowledge and of conduct means as much in adult education as in elementary education. The passing of blind book worship is not a phenomenon observed only in children. The individual adult, full often as the child, must be taught to get the meaning of his book. Inflexible method falls rather more quickly upon the adult than upon the child; the adult simply lets your institution alone; while the child in the course of his education will have other opportunities to be swayed by the personality that is the spark of life.

Before discussion of these guiding principles, let us distinguish between school and library. Despite the overlapping of work, and notwithstanding the following suggestions that the library may take over some of the present functions of the school, please

let us understand that the library is not to become a school and that the school is not to swallow up the library. School is formal. Library is informal. Fundamentally, the school is for discipline (training, if you will). Fundamentally, the library is for culture. The belief underlying these remarks is that the library does nothing that could be better done in school, but that the library's work is a necessary part of education.

Unity of the child's mental life means this to librarians:

The children's department educates. It cannot merely entertain. It cannot detach its story-telling from what is learned at school. Its training results in conduct. It must answer for the wrong book given the child. Sometimes it must answer for giving any book at all. Its work is part of the child's education, either good or bad.

Minute and arbitrary grading of books, stories and pictures finds no warrant in the children we try to fit into our pigeonholes. Children of the same so-called grade vary in ability as much as 1,000 per cent. The same reading material was recently found to be within the compass of children all the way from the second to the sixth school grades; the better second-grade scholars could read and understand the same material as the poorer sixth graders. A plan of grouping more justified by recent educational advance is what school men call the "six-three-three" plan, or sometimes (as in Los Angeles) the "five-four-three" plan. This would be a primary group, including kindergarten and grades one to six; an intermediate group grades seven to nine; a secondary group, the three upper high-school years. Indeed, I am not sure but that the schools of the future will have teachers of subjects rather than teachers of grades. So far as it is administratively possible, libraries may well prepare for a similar organization of correlated specialists for the work with children.

The passing of the old-time book

reverence need not alarm libraries. The new reverence is ability to use books, not fear of them. But the new education believes that the child may learn also by using his hands, by visiting the fields, by seeing things done, and by the telling of his experiences. This means that the child will continue to use library books, but for more varied purposes. It means also that in the library perhaps the child should hear as many stories read from the books as are now told from memory. Moreover, it means that the child might well be encouraged to tell the librarian of his discoveries in book-land, picture-land, toy-land; expression should equal impression. I am aware that this is almost a ridiculous suggestion to the librarian in a crowded children's room on a Saturday afternoon; but I am insisting that we recognize the educational bearing of that which we do or do not do. Such an oral report from reader to keeper of books, is more than an educational virtue; the contact informs and enthruses; it remedies the formlessness and disintegration of minds that come from much reading without any organization or reaction. Equally, the passing of blind worship of books means that in the provision of illustrative or museum material, libraries have not yet reached their educational responsibility. Having furnished these girls with the Ben Greet Shakespeare, why not help them act it out on the library stage? Having furnished the boy the how-to-make-it book, why not let him try out the plan with the "Meccano" or "Constructikon" outfit? Does the library's business stop with giving him the idea? I repeat: expression must follow impression, the use of books result in conduct. Are expression and conduct any of the library's business?

Librarians have rather more effective opportunities than teachers for contact with individuals. One of the present opportunities for library individual service to children and for library co-operation with the public schools is

possibly in the teaching of reading. The school men are seeking means of economy of time in education. After the first two years of instruction by the school in phonetics and mechanics of reading, may not the libraries take over the rest of what is now too often a slow humdrum singsong process? In his compilation of the classics of "Library and school," Mr Bostwick quotes the first trial of the scheme, at Pomona, California, a dozen years ago. Each child reads a different book, for the sheer pleasure of it; he tells teacher and class about it; everybody is interested because it is all new. Manifestly, the library should supply the books needed. If the schools are going to feed the children, and take care of the babies while the mothers work, and provide laundry facilities for the neighborhood—then can't the libraries teach reading? Seriously, as long ago as 1908, in his "Psychology and pedagogy of reading," Dr Huey predicts this:

"Perhaps librarians will sometime be trained to be our most effective teachers of reading, and many of them are so already * * * Perhaps if all reading classes had to be conducted in the library, the 'silence' rule itself would compel better use of the recitation time; and I am glad to find, too, that in the best libraries the early years are provided for with reading aloud and the telling of stories to the children, giving the literature to the children as the race learned it in its childhood, through the ear and with the help of an abundance of pictures."

Manifestly it will require the resourcefulness of personality rich in native endowment and training, to discern what end of action will follow the reading of this book by this boy, to know that this girl of twelve is not so old mentally as that girl of eight, to utilize all suitable materials and experiences for the education of this child, to cling to the interests of this boy and at the same time to leaven the whole mass. To find and train people who can use a rule or a textbook with-

out being enslaved by it—that is the problem of the child in school. That we are finding and training people who can use a tool or a book or an occasion for the welfare of the child—that is the triumph of the library for the child.

Rules for Children's Rooms

The Rosenberg library, Galveston, Texas, has issued from the children's department a most attractive little leaflet under the title of Rules for children who borrow books. After telling of hours of opening, the following rules are given:

Rules for children who borrow books

Two books may be taken out at one time.

Books may be kept for two weeks. If you wish to keep your books longer, bring them to the library and ask to have them renewed.

If you keep your books beyond the time allowed, you will not be permitted to use your card for a while. That is, if your books are

1 day overdue you must wait 5 days,

2 days overdue you must wait 6 days,

3 days overdue you must wait 7 days,

4 days overdue you must wait 8 days,

etc.

Books may be returned before the end of two weeks. If books are returned the day they are taken out, you will not be permitted to take other books that same day.

Remember always to return your books at the desk when you enter the Children's room, and to have your books charged before you leave the room.

Keep the card with your name on it in the pocket in front of the book. Whenever you return a book bring the card with you.

If you lose your card let the librarian know at once. You will have to wait two weeks before another card is given you.

Books that you lose, you must pay for.

Books that are torn or damaged show that you have not been careful, and you will be accordingly fined for it, and you will not be permitted to take other books until the fine is paid.

Whenever you change your address, be sure to let the librarian know at once.

Be careful about lending your card, as you are held responsible for any fines.

The way a library book makes many visits

Be very careful of all books loaned you. Remember to be even more careful than if the books really belonged to you.

Being careful means a great many things. It means seeing that your hands are quite clean when you handle the book. It means also that you are not to turn down the corners of the pages, or to mark or tear or in any way harm the book. If you are interrupted while reading and wish to keep your place, use a very thin book-mark, one that is no thicker than a single sheet of paper. Thick, heavy book-marks injure books. Then if you wish to make the book very comfortable and secure, you may wrap it up carefully, always remembering to leave it in a safe place, so that no harm may come to it when you are not by to guard it.

If you remember what being careful means and treat your books accordingly, they can visit many boys and girls and make them all as happy as they have made you.

References on City Planning*

To the city planner Miss Kimball's "Classified list of city planning references" must prove of great immediate and lasting value; for though the literature of city planning is already voluminous, as this selected list itself shows, it is so recent and is so scattered in magazine articles and more or less fragmentary reports to particular cities that nothing but an extraordinary memory has hitherto sufficed to keep within reach even the most important contributions to the subject. As yet no city planning text-book exists (one is however in preparation for the National Municipal League series). In these magazines and reports there is necessarily much that is duplicated and

irrelevant, so that to wade through them in search of a specific subject has become wellnigh impossible. Unless the literature is collated and amalgamated it cannot serve as a basis for advance; and each investigator must laboriously go over much of the same field that his predecessors have gone over. City planning considered as a unit is as yet a new science and will for a long time to come be capable of great expansion as it steadily increases in importance in directing the development of communities. Anything which hastens and strengthens this vigorous growth is therefore of peculiar benefit to civic welfare.

In the compact space of the 48 pages of the pamphlet under consideration the thousand most valuable contributions to city planning are grouped according to their respective fields, so that a person desiring for example to study the subject of Building heights will find 12 references under this heading. The method of classification follows that of an earlier, equally valuable book compiled jointly by Professor Pray of Harvard university and Miss Kimball, which furnishes a complete numbered schedule covering all elements of city planning. The only possible criticism of the present pamphlet is that it contains no alphabetical index; but for quick reference must be used in conjunction with the index of the classification. However, as there are but 137 headings, and these are themselves logically grouped, this is not a serious handicap. If kept up to date Miss Kimball's list is certain to be an indispensable aid to all students of city planning.

ARTHUR C. COMEY.

He that is choice of his time will also be choice of his company, and choice of his actions; lest the first engage him in vanity and loss, and the latter, by being criminal, be a throwing his time and himself away, and a going back in the accounts of eternity.
—Jeremy Taylor.

*Classified selected list of references on city planning, Theodora Kimball, 1915.

A. L. A. Meeting, 1914

It was "a little late" as the gavel in the hand of President Wellman fell to open the thirty-seventh annual meeting on the campus of the University of California at Berkeley.

There was a full house and good attention, despite the warm day, the long climb to reach the hall and the fatigue which followed the long journeys to reach the meeting.

The first paper was by Henry W. Kent, secretary of the Metropolitan museum of art, New York, his subject, "The book." Mr Kent gave a resumé of the history of book collecting as an art, naming those who in bygone days found it such a joy that it is the sole monument of their memory.

Everett R. Perry, librarian of the Los Angeles public library, read a very practical paper on "Bulletins and library printing." (See page 301).

"The fine art of printing," by T. M. Cleland, New York, urged a cause in which librarians should be deeply interested, the betterment of the printing art.

At night on Thursday, the program opened with an address of welcome by Mr Livingston Jenks, in which he took occasion to trace the history of Mechanics Institute of San Francisco.

President Wellman in his address made a plea for a more cultural effort on the part of the public library in addition to the practical and purely informational work carried on so well at present. (See page 285).

An informal reception followed adjournment, where new acquaintances were formed and old ones renewed. A notable feature was the large numbers of comparatively young men and women who were present, and while Mr Bowker, Mr Andrews, Dr Bostwick, Dr Hill and a few more of the usual supporting members were present, it was an unusual gathering with the absence of many regular standbys.

On Friday morning, the hall was filled. Miss May Massee was most attractive in her presentation of "The

changing literary taste and the growing appeal of poetry."

Miss Massee said in part:

The literary taste in America is turning to poetry. The average man today is listening to poetry as never before, furnishing a call that is moving the big publishing houses to seek poetry for their pages. To have poets there must be great audiences. There are two magazines devoted entirely to poetry. Literary reviews are today devoting pages to poetry, where ten years ago they devoted only a few lines.

Dr Herbert Putnam was more interesting than usual, if that were possible, as he gave voice in his address, "Per contra," to the criticisms of the public library movement and its work and answered in the negative the questions which he asked concerning each objection with "Well, what of it?" (See page 290).

W. H. Kerr, of the State normal school at Emporia, Kansas, gave an interesting presentation of "The child in the school and in the library." (See page 307).

Friday afternoon was given up to sectional meetings and to the meetings of affiliated societies. The Catalog section had a full program and much discussion. An important point brought out was an agreement of the author of the Decimal classification to meet a committee of librarians to consider the revision and bringing down to date of the D. C. (See page 315). Several sections held meetings in the evening.

Saturday was A. L. A. day at the exposition, and the sections scheduled for the morning were finished on time. Directly after lunch the A. L. A. party in Berkeley crossed the bay to the exposition. Here they were met by officials of the Fair, with a brass band, conducted to the beautiful Court of Abundance and formally welcomed. A bronze medal in memory of the occasion was presented to the A. L. A. Mr Wellman responded to the welcome and accepted the medal.

The A. L. A. exhibit in the Education building was an object of interest and was crowded till it closed, by those anxious to see how it "showed up."

Considering the vicissitudes through which it had passed, it was very creditable. The space was too small, and there was therefore a necessarily somewhat crowded look to it, but on the whole it was a good exhibit. (See page 317).

On Saturday evening, the California library association gave a most cordial reception to the visitors in the beautiful rooms of the California building and everyone enjoyed it.

Headquarters were almost deserted on Sunday. Excursions to the mountains, to Muir woods and to San Francisco left only a few at the Shattuck hotel.

Fourth session

At the general session on Monday morning, Mr. Bowker in his address, "The province of the public library," traced the development of the New York public library, first started by the unlettered, unassuming fur-trader of the Northwest, Mr. Astor, through its various phases till it was organized under the genius of Dr Billings into the greatest public library in the world.

He called attention to the emphasis placed on *service* by the modern library, shown by the fact that libraries spend twice as much for service as for books.

He also said in part:

The province of the library is in recreation, information, education and inspiration, and the greatest of these is inspiration. We have been inspired here in California to a degree greater than we as visitors have inspired you of California. In your county library system and in other ways you of the coast have taught us much. This land of gold is thinking less and less of the gold of darkness and more of the gold of sunshine. We have come to recognize creative evolution and to emphasize the responsibility we have in shaping the development of our fellow man. It is for the librarians to promote the ideals which will tell in the thoughts of nations. Better hold our country to a leadership of peace.

In the discussion which followed, Dr Bostwick said that no general law could be laid down as to the province of the public library, but it must depend on local conditions; that there is

too much duplication in every line and libraries should avoid it, but if no one else is doing a thing that needs to be done, and the library has the plant, the staff and the means, let the library do it.

Mr Porter of Cincinnati said the library belongs to the people and should do what needs to be done for the enlightenment of the people. Give what the people demand and not what we think they need.

Cars were taken at the adjournment for Oakland, where a bountiful luncheon was spread at the beautiful Hotel Oakland by the courtesy of the city. A call was made on the Mayor, who spoke most eloquently of public library service. A beautiful ride to Mills college followed. Here the large party was received by the president and the library staff and a pleasant hour under the trees was most enjoyable.

Fifth session

Wednesday morning's program was opened with a paper by W. W. Bishop on "The theory of reference work," read by Paul Blackwelder, of St. Louis.

Mr Bowerman followed with his address, "How far should the library aid the peace movement and similar propaganda?" (See p. 296).

Dr Bostwick objected to stressing peace, saying the library should be neutral.

Miss Downey spoke on "Pioneering in Utah." She said she found organizations already at hand through which it was best to work. First of these was the Mormon church. This was eager and ready to further every effort to start book collections, and she had addressed crowded audiences from the pulpits of that church nearly every Sunday since she had been there.

Next was the State school department, of which the Library commission is a part, and between which most cordial coöperation exists. Talks before teachers' organizations and parents' clubs gave fine results in the work of carrying out a purpose—to put a book in the hands of every school child in

Utah. In Salt Lake City the work is firmly established and in the small towns the work is well received.

There are 21 tax supported libraries, 16 Carnegie buildings and a number of college and private libraries. The State institutions are better supplied with books for inmates than in any of the older states. Great distances make isolation for the library workers, but they come together in Salt Lake City at the time of the teachers' meeting. The laws of Utah are simple, and in addition to the regular library tax there is a levy of 15 cents for every school child in Utah.

Resolutions of thanks were passed, naming especially the library of the University of California and the California library association. (See resolutions, p. 313).

Dr Putnam in his gracious way urged the members to resolve with him to tell the wonders of the Exposition to those at home and to induce them to come and see it.

A telegram of confidence and sympathy was ordered sent to President Wilson in view of the heavy tasks before him, relating to the European war. (See p. 317).

The announcement of the election showed that only 87 persons had voted and that various points of view were expressed thereby.

The officers elected are as follows:

President—Miss Mary W. Plummer, Director, Library school, New York public library.

First vice-president—Walter L. Brown, Buffalo public library.

Second vice-president—Chalmers Hadley, Denver public library.

Executive Board—M. S. Dudgeon, Wisconsin free library commission, Madison; S. H. Ranck, Grand Rapids public library.

Members of Council for five years, elected by the association—Carl H. Milam, Birmingham public library; Herbert S. Hirshberg, Toledo public library; Miss Mary L. Jones, Los Angeles County free library; C. E. Rush, St. Joseph public library; Miss Sarah C. N. Bogle, Pittsburgh Carnegie Library training school for children's librarians.

Members of Council for five years, elected by the Council—Geo. F. Bowerman, Public

library, Washington, D. C.; W. N. C. Carlton, Newberry library, Chicago; Mrs E. C. Earl, Indiana library commission, Connersville, Ind.; Miss Mary E. Hall, librarian, Girls high school, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Harold L. Leupp, University of California, Berkeley.

Trustee of Endowment fund—M. Taylor Pyne, Princeton, N. J.

Mr Hadley being the only one of the three highest officers present, Mr Wellman turned over the gavel to him.

The meeting adjourned at one o'clock.

Report of resolutions committee

The following minutes were adopted:

The American Library Association, at the conclusion of its thirty-seventh annual conference, the fourth on the Pacific Coast and the third in California, desires to express its grateful appreciation of the many services and courtesies that have made the success of the conference possible.

To our hosts, the authorities of the University of California, our thanks are due. . . . We owe much to the staff of the University library, and especially to its librarian, Dr Joseph C. Rowell, and its associate librarian, Mr Harold Leupp, for their care for our comfort in the local arrangements.

We express the pleasure derived from meeting personally so many members of the California library association and for its reception and entertainment.

In behalf of those of our members who formed the Eastern travel party we would express their appreciation of the many and charming hospitalities shown them *en route*.

Thanks are due to the City of Oakland for its hospitalities and to the authorities of Mills college for their delightful lawn party; to Mr Charles S. Greene and the staff of the Oakland public library for their large share in our entertainment and comfort.

We thank the authorities of the Panama-Pacific international exposition for their official reception of the association and for their gift of a medal, which will be carefully preserved in memory of the occasion.

We are grateful to Messrs Henry W.

Kent and T. M. Cleland, not only for their scholarly addresses, but also for their interest in our work as shown by their attendance from so great a distance.

The unavoidable absence of the State librarian of California, Mr J. L. Gillis, has been felt as a loss to the association in this conference, and we tender him our sympathy in the illness which has occasioned it.

The members of the association will return to their homes with pleasant memories of these and many other associations and courtesies.

The following resolution also was adopted:

Twenty-three former members of the association have died during the year. Among these, some have rendered conspicuous service: Bernard R. Green, in the construction and care of our national library; Katharine L. Sharp, in the early development of the library school; E. S. Willcox as a pioneer in the public library system of Illinois; Frederick H. Hild, as librarian of the Chicago public library; and Minnie M. Oakley, in the Wisconsin Historical Society library, and later in Seattle and Los Angeles.

A. E. BOSTWICK.
MARTHA WILSON.
C. W. ANDREWS.

Report of the secretary

The Secretary's report stated that the conference year of 1914-15 had seen three association records broken: first, more members joined the A. L. A. than during any other year in its history; second, the sales of the publications of the Publishing Board were greater than ever before, and third, the attendance at the Washington conference was the largest on record.

About 25,000 pieces of first class mail and over 35,000 pieces of circular matter in addition to the two periodicals, were sent out. There was increased activity in the work of the Executive office in publicity and development of field work.

The necrology report included the following: Mrs Judith W. Andrews,

Mrs Sarah A. C. Bond, Mrs Henry Draper, Bernard R. Green, Edna M. Hawley, Thomas J. Kiernan, David R. Moore, Ada L. Palmer, Katherine L. Sharp, Luella M. Sloan, Jean Terquem, E. S. Willcox, Miss E. von Wilmonski, Euphemia Winans, Harry Woods, Frederick H. Hild, Edward P. Judd, Professor T. R. Lounsbury, Minnie M. Oakley, Margaret A. O'Brien, William Curtis Taylor, Talbot H. Wallis and Dr Anthony Woodward.

Reports of committees

The committee on coöperation with the National education association, reported not so much on coöperation with the N. E. A. as on the extension of library coöperation in the public schools, and the organization of associations of teachers to consider the relation of the library to their work.

The committee on library administration reported two different lines of activity; uniform library statistics and second, labor-saving devices for libraries. Twenty public libraries have issued printed reports following the recommendation of the committee.

The committee on library training reported progress on its report to the association. A special report was made at the meeting of the faculties of the library schools, simply for consideration, the final report to be made later.

The committee on bookbinding reported that the New international cyclopedia had adopted the most important of the specifications recommended last year, also the Merriam company, while objecting to some, had agreed to adopt others of the specifications. The sample collection of books bound by different bookbinders has increased. The committee recommends that it is not wise to bind newspapers in any kind of leather, except where the library can spend a large amount for binding for the better appearance on the shelves for a few years. The committee believes the best material to use is a heavy grade, closely woven duck.

The committee on federal and state

relations called attention to the danger of the tariff legislation being made to apply to importation of books, and of a bill containing a provision to obtain the consent of American copyright proprietors before importing books copyrighted in the United States.

The committee on work for the blind made an extensive report, giving comprehensive data of the inventory which had been made of the embossed books available for the blind in the different states. New York and Pennsylvania seem to be in the lead according to the data given.

The report of the trustees of the Carnegie and endowment funds states that the income from the Carnegie fund was \$6,016; the income from the endowment fund was \$400.

The report of the Publishing Board records sales on publications for the year, \$13,544. This counts both new publications and reprints. The total number of subscriptions to the *A. L. A. Booklist* was 4,889. Beginning with Vol. 12, the *Booklist* will be dated from October to July. The number of analytical cards for serials printed was 149,760, of which the regular number have been distributed to subscribers and the surplus kept in stock.

The cash receipts from the Publishing Board were \$19,443; the balance on hand, after expenditure, \$660.

Catalog section

The first meeting of the Catalog section was held Friday afternoon, Mr Adolf Law Voge of the Mechanics-Mercantile library of San Francisco, presiding in the absence of Dr Wiley.

The first subject was the Code for classifiers.

Mr William Stetson Merrill's paper, "What classifiers are saying about the code," summed up briefly, criticisms of the code, favorable and unfavorable. In closing, Mr Merrill said:

The code in its present form, at least, is intended neither as a compilation of knotty points of difficulty for the expert classifier, nor, as a primer of classification for the beginner, but as an illustration of a compre-

hensive treatise on the principles of assigning books to their proper places in any system or grouping of the topics of human knowledge. . . . Such a code aims to bring together in orderly sequence a set of principles for the guidance of classifiers to choose between two or more places in which a given book might equally well be placed, and thereby secure uniformity in their work.

The code as an efficiency agent was discussed by Miss Letitia Gosman of Princeton University library, who outlined the advantages to be derived from its use.

"The proposed code for classifiers" was the subject of a paper by Miss Julia Pettee of Union Theological seminary, New York City. Miss Pettee made a plea for a classed arrangement, saying:

The alphabetical form in which these rules are tentatively issued seems to me a serious obstacle to their usefulness. . . . If the rules are arranged under large common subject groups and definitions added which will point out clearly the main lines of cleavage, it seems to me that it would make a most useful manual of instruction. . . . To my mind a code for classifiers and our present classification scheme can not be considered apart from one another, and I suggest that the committee on the code take up this matter of an appendix to the Dewey.

Miss Josephine Rathbone, who had read Miss Pettee's paper, also expressed the hope that the section or the Council would take up the subject of D. C. expansions.

Following this, the acting-chairman proposed a resolution recommending to the Council of the A. L. A. that a committee be appointed to be known as the Advisory committee on D. C. expansions. The adoption of this resolution was unanimously approved.

The next paper was "Classification of federal documents," discussed by Mary A. Hartwell. Miss Hartwell summed up the main arguments of her paper in this way:

To non-depository libraries: classify by subjects always. . . . Depository libraries would in the long run find the Checklist classification preferable, unless the collection is very small or if a subject classification is already in use and giving satisfaction

... but whichever plan you decide upon, arrange Congressional documents by serial numbers.

Miss Bessie Goldberg's paper on Cataloging and classification of music was characterized by a practical treatment of the subject and concrete illustrations used.

Various phases of cataloging work were discussed by Amy Allen, library of West Virginia university; Lucia Haley, Seattle public library; Alice M. Dougan, library of Purdue university; Theodora R. Brewitt, Training school of Los Angeles public library; Esther Smith, library of Michigan university; Helen B. Sutliff, Leland Stanford Jr. university, and Sula Wagner, St. Louis public library.

Owing to the length of the program, a special session was held Saturday morning. Mr C. H. Hastings gave a summary of the proposed manual of arranging cards in a dictionary catalog. There was much discussion on this subject and Mr Hastings recommended that the acting-chairman appoint a committee to coöperate with him in proposing alternative schemes for card arrangement which would be satisfactory to different libraries.

The subject of D. C. expansions was next introduced. This elicited considerable discussion with the general consensus of opinion that expansion would be advisable in the classes Philosophy, Religion, and Sociology, especially, and that provision be made for new subjects for which the Dewey gives no classification.

The officers elected were, Miss Sula Wagner, St. Louis public library, chairman, and Miss Charlotte Foye, John Crerar library, secretary.

The members of the committee appointed by Mr Voге, the acting-chairman, to coöperate with Mr Hastings were: T. Franklin Currier, Margaret Mann, Mary Sutliff, Bessie Goldberg, Clifford B. Clapp, Charles J. Matthews, Mary E. Hazeltine, and Nella J. Martin.

ALICE M. HEALY,
Acting-secretary.

Children's section

The Children's librarians' section of the A. L. A. met in California hall of the University of California, on June 8, at 10 A. M.

In the absence of the chairman, Miss J. M. Carson of New York, the meeting was called to order by the vice-chairman, Miss Jasmine Britton of Los Angeles.

Mrs Edna Lyman Scott read a paper on the "Inspirational influence of books in the life of children," and gave the audience a vivid picture of what books may mean to children growing up in a sheltered home of culture and refinement.

Mrs Alice G. Whitbeck, librarian of Contra Costa County free library, Martinez, Cal., spoke on "The reading of older girls and boys." Mrs Whitbeck's work with children in Berkeley is well known and the problems she now faces in her county work made her paper of great interest.

In the discussion that followed, Miss Greer of Tacoma, contended that the reading of older boys and girls suffered when they were transferred to the adult department, not because of lack of training in the children's room, but because of lack of guidance in the adult department, where they are suddenly turned loose in a miscellaneous collection of books, where standard of selection is lower than that prevailing in the children's room.

It was agreed that the best solution of the difficulty was the employment of an assistant specially adapted to work with adolescents. If this were impossible, the establishment of an intermediate collection was thought desirable, to be shelved preferably in the adult circulating department.

Mrs May Dexter Henshall, School library organizer for the State of California, talked most interestingly on "Reading in rural districts," and gave some very surprising data concerning the conditions existing in many of California's school libraries, and the changes that had been made possible

through the work of the school library organizer.

The sessions ended with a short business session at which the following officers were elected: chairman, Miss Gertrude Andrus, Public library, Seattle; vice-chairman, Miss Elisabeth Knapp, Public library, Detroit; secretary-treasurer, Miss Jessie Sibley, New York public library; Mr Edward L. Pearson, New York public library and Mr J. C. Dana, Newark public library, were elected to the Advisory board to succeed Miss Titcomb and Dr Hill.

The meeting adjourned after passing a resolution expressing its sympathy with the efforts of the Boy scouts to better the reading of boys by means of a week where the retail book trade shall place special emphasis on juvenile books and also suggesting that the A. L. A. Council should indicate its approval in some formal way.

GERTRUDE ANDRUS,
Secretary pro tem.

School Libraries Section

The school libraries section elected the following:

Chairman—Miss Mary E. Hall, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Vice-chairman—Dr A. S. Root, Oberlin college.

Secretary-treasurer—Miss Alice Blanchard, Newark, N. J.

Telegram to President Wilson

The following telegram was wired to President Wilson, after it had been adopted as a resolution:

The American Library Association, by the very nature of its activities, dedicated to the cause of peace, feels deep concern for the problems of the United States government in the present world crisis. It offers to the President of the United States its sympathy and its confidence, assured that whatever course he and his advisers shall adopt will have as its ultimate aim an ideal of international peace.

The American library association is only one of 822 associations which are to hold conferences in the vicinity of the Panama-Pacific exposition during 1915.

The A. L. A. Exhibit

The exhibit made at San Francisco of library work covered a space of 2,000 feet in the east side of the Palace of education.

The exhibit is entirely graphic and shows every form of library activity carried on in town and country. Alcoves are formed by the frames bearing pictures, plans, lists, outlines, etc. Exterior and interior views of library buildings, floor plans and elevations give architectural features of both large and small libraries. Special display is made of a children's room, and the furniture provided by the Library Bureau added much to its appearance.

The space is hardly large enough for an adequate showing of all that is interesting, but the arrangement and display have evidently received careful attention. The A. L. A. makes a special exhibit of its publications.

A large map, 40 feet square, showing the celebrated county library system of California, forms a background for the exhibit, reaching to the top of the wall. This can be seen from far off in the building, and by its bright colors attracts attention.

Owing to careless packing and handling, the library exhibit from Leipzig was ruined in transit, and very little of it is in the present exhibit. Joseph L. Wheeler is in charge of the exhibit.

The Library Commission of the Boy Scouts of America

The following resolution was passed by the A. L. A. council at Berkeley:

Resolved, that the Council of the American Library Association welcomes the aid of the Library commission of the Boy scouts of America in its efforts to improve the reading taste of the boys of the country; that the Council of this association approves the plans of the Library commission of the Boy scouts for a week, when by vote of the American booksellers' association the retail book trade shall place special emphasis on juvenile books and that the Council of this association commends the plan, as announced by the Boy scouts of America to the favorable consideration of the public librarians of the country.

A. L. A. Itinerary

It was raining, it was cold outside, as the train pulled away from Chicago, but inside the cars bearing 130 there were neither tears nor cold. Warm greetings and quick interest made a pleasant atmosphere. Many had never been so far *West*, and everything was of interest, even the commonplace, because it *was* commonplace!

The beautiful state of Iowa in its new verdure, its comfortable farmhouses, the autos dashing in all directions, the towns and villages, all gave delight that was not lessened by the gorgeous sunset followed by the glorious moonlight which gave promise of a fair tomorrow.

When Denver was reached, every one had settled to a state of real enjoyment which was heightened by the ride about the city and the courtesy and good cheer of the Savoy hotel. Mr Enos Mills, the Mountain Man, gave a most illuminating talk in the evening at the Main library on the National parks. Mr Hadley welcomed the visitors, and with delicious refreshments, beautiful harp music and dancing for those so inclined, a happy occasion came to an end as the tired travelers found their places in the train at 11 p. m.

The daylight ride through Colorado with its marvelous mountains towering into the sky, red, purple, grand, somber, full of a variety of awe-inspiring aspects, culminated, perhaps, in the trip through the Royal gorge. The snow covered mountains seen in the afternoon and evening drew forth the greatest admiration and interest not only from those who had never seen the like, but also from those who thought they had too often seen such lights and shadows both at home and in Europe to be moved again to deep admiration.

The night and day at Glenwood Springs were a delight without a shadow of disappointment. The location is beautiful beyond description, full of interest and variety, and The Colorado gave a resting place beyond reach of any complaint. Many vowed to return as they enjoyed the fine table, good rooms,

prompt service and fine courtesy of the hotel and its management. The hot mineral waters in pools, baths and fountains, were all enjoyed to the fullest extent.

A lovely Sunday lent its aid to the enjoyment of beautiful Salt Lake City. Through the courtesy of the Public library and the State University library, the entire party was taken to various beautiful viewpoints around this model clean city, and when the magnificent organ recital in the Tabernacle by Prof McClellan, as a special treat for the librarians, was given, a feeling of deepest gratitude was universal. Taken back to the train, every one was sorry the stay in Salt Lake City was over.

Sunday and Monday went by till noon of the second day, with a better understanding of "The country God forgot."

About noon the sage brush gave way to green fields and orchards of oranges, walnuts, apricots and fresh green verdure of various kinds.

When Riverside was reached, the genial J. F. D. met the party and conveyed them to the Mission Inn, the perpetual delight. An orange luncheon was set in the patio and cloisters, and the strains of sweet music gave a delight that was felt by all. After the luncheon, generous citizens took those who chose to go, in autos to the top of Mt. Rubidoux, where a magnificent view of the surrounding country was seen. A visit to the various curious, beautiful and historical parts of Mission Inn gave much pleasure to others. Nearly every one visited the library, which is unique in many ways. Mr Daniels is noted as a publicist, and his library profits by his methods of presenting his views.

The building as a whole, gives an impression of cleanliness and cheer, but it is sadly inconvenient for library purposes and the visitors wondered how long the loss that must occur in administering such a building would be stood by the institution. In contrast was the feeling about the library at Los Angeles, where the arrangements on the four floors were such as to best conserve the

time and energy of the staff and the public. The library in general was closed, as Monday was a city holiday, but the periodical room was open. Mr Newmark, Mrs Harmon, Mr Perry and members of his staff showed the visitors through the various departments and seemed to take, justly, much pride in the improved quarters of the library.

Miss Helen Haines, former editor of the *Library Journal*, was present to receive the greetings of her old friends who were delighted to see her looking much better than she had ever done in the old days on the *Journal*. She thinks that in a little while she will be quite ready to enter again into the conduct of such activity as may appeal to her.

There was universal regret among the travelers that more time was not available to enjoy the attractions of this live municipality, but eight o'clock saw the departure for San Diego. The price of so much pleasure was a late arrival in San Diego, and June was already two hours old before the party was housed.

The Fair was the objective point on Tuesday. One might say much about this beautiful little gem, but it must be seen to be appreciated. The librarians were received and entertained by the San Diego public library, the social committee of the Fair, and various friends of members of the party. The Spanish dances had special attraction for even the most sedate of the men, and the cloaks of red and gold of the troubadours held the attention of the ladies.

The model farm and the Indian villages at the far end of "The Isthmus" gave an excuse for many of the staid ethnologists traversing the way till a late hour.

The visit to Point Loma was most interesting, and formed a basis for much discussion for the rest of the journey.

The libraries of San Diego, Coronado and Loma were examples of what a fine setting the localities afford with flowers, shrubs and light.

It was a slow get away from San Diego, so that noon came before the welcome sight of Berkeley was reached.

Quite a number of Coast and Western librarians joined the party and added to the pleasure of the end of the journey.

The way home was devious in directions and interest, and will not be described before Fall.

A. L. A. Notes

California was a hostess of the most approved pattern from Los Angeles to San Francisco, and Nature smiled a welcome to emphasize the cordiality of the librarians.

The long line marching behind a band to be welcomed and "medaled" was a new experience for the A. L. A.

The indefatigable efforts of Mr Leupp and his assistants for the physical comfort of the librarians deserve another medal from some source.

Some of the visitors were late in arriving at A. L. A. meetings. Will it be mentioned in the reports given back home?

One plan to reduce the size of books which Mr Koopman advocates might be the adoption of Mr Cleland's idea of omitting spaces between words. Doyoulikeit?

There was much anxious inquiry as to what had become of the idea of the revision of the constitution. It was put in storage last winter and not taken out afterwards.

There is a question of fairness in changing a program which has been printed without giving notice to those interested. Much disappointment was felt by a number on account of this.

Mr Carlton of Chicago replied to the question of his acceptance of the nomination for A. L. A. president for 1916, that he did not feel entitled to it, because of his lack of years of A. L. A. service, but especially he would like to emphasize his disapproval of the precedent which decrees the first vice president for one year shall be president the next. A fine discrimination, worthy of praise.

Mr Bowker paid a compliment to the

courtesy of the large majority of the membership in allowing the men to appear in the association. There was one woman speaker on the general program allowed for the week.

Mr Hadley in his address showed the effect of his long absence from Indiana by saying "Shakespeare and Booth Tarkington," instead of the true Hoosier fashion of the other way 'round.

"The Zone" was most popular with the men librarians from the larger cities? Why?

It was again demonstrated that scattered meetings lose much of the value and charm of meetings held in one place. The same may be said of the housing also.

There were about 20 various exhibits relating to book collections by various societies and countries at the exposition, exclusive of the purely commercial exhibits of publishers and book-sellers.

A vote of the general meeting on Wednesday morning sent a telegram of greeting, gratitude and sympathy to State-librarian James L. Gillis of California and Mr W. I. Fletcher, of Amherst, Mass. Mr Gillis was too ill to attend the meetings. Mr Fletcher had been elected president of the A. L. A. in 1890 when the first visit to California was planned. Mr Fletcher is now librarian emeritus of Amherst college.

Saturday Afternoon Talks

The story hour for children had become a dead issue in the Public library, Binghamton, N. Y.—the reason, the "movies." Yet there seemed to be large numbers of children and young people idling away the Saturday holiday, and lots of children who could not afford the nickel.

Librarian W. F. Seward proposed to make an experiment and find out if something a little more serious than a moving picture show, and yet not so much so as to be prejudged as "high-

brow," would not find hearers in Binghamton on a Saturday afternoon, even if it cost nothing. He therefore tried out the first of a proposed series of industrial talks to be given at three on Saturdays. Announcements were made in the schools and through the newspapers, no age or youth limit being set.

The first talk was on the "Whaling industry," with a very satisfactory audience which pretty well illustrated the seven ages of man. As this talk found its hearers in goodly numbers, the series was continued with "Forestry" and "Coal mining," the audience increasing with each lecture.

These three talks were given by the librarian, and were illustrated with lantern slides borrowed from the New York state library.

"School gardens and others," by the head of the Farm bureau was the next of the Saturday talks, also illustrated with lantern slides.

"Hero and fairy stories from the great operas" will conclude this Spring's Saturday features. A very capable friend of the library, Miss Mary E. Leverett, is giving three talks on the operas—The Rhinegold, Siegfried, and Hansel and Gretel; telling the stories, and illustrating them with selected motifs on the victrola. This series is attracting as varied an audience as did the industrial talks.

These talks at a regular time have been a very successful substitute for the story hour, and have shown the library, the day and the hour that gets the crowd.

The American year book for 1914 speaks of the case of the State of New Mexico vs. De Armijo: "In the case of a woman who held the office of State librarian in New Mexico *quo warranto* proceedings were held to oust her from office. The court reviewed many cases, and decided that such an office was one that a woman could hold at common law, being purely ministerial, and calling for the exercise of neither judgment nor discretion."

League of Library Commissions

The annual meeting of the League of library commissions was held at Berkeley on Monday afternoon, June 4.

In the absence of the president and first vice-president, Miss Mary E. Downey, second vice-president, presided.

Reports of committees on Aid to new commissions and on Foreign booklists were received and the recommendation of the Eastern section at their Midwinter meeting concerning the publication of a Handbook in 1916 adopted.

Proper notice having been given, the following changes were made in the constitution:

- 1 Providing for an addition of three members to the Executive board, to be chosen from three different states for a term of three years each.

- 2 Requiring the filing of committee reports with the secretary at least 30 days before the date of the annual meeting.

- 3 Making the time and place of the annual meeting the same as that of the Midwinter meeting of the Council.

- 4 The terms of president and secretary-treasurer two years each to expire on alternate years.

The following officers were elected:

President, Miss Fannie C. Rawson, Kentucky; first vice-president, Mr Henry W. Sanborn, Indiana; second vice-president, Mrs A. J. Barkley, Iowa; secretary-treasurer, Miss Sarah Askew, New Jersey; additional members of Executive board: Miss Price, Illinois; Miss Downey, Utah; Mr Watson, New York.

In the absence of several expected to take part in the discussion, the Friday evening and Saturday morning meetings were combined on Friday evening.

On the question of methods of familiarizing custodians of traveling libraries with their books that they might enlarge the number of their patrons, Dr Bostwick considered that the

only method by which custodians could become familiar with their books was by reading them, in order that they might attractively describe the impression received and thereby induce others to read. Persons to act as custodians, who will come nearest to doing this, should be selected.

Miss Price told of the methods used in Illinois in bringing the traveling libraries to the knowledge of those who might desire them, mentioning as the most helpful, cooperation with public libraries, women's clubs, school people, ministers, the state university, newspapers and state fair exhibits.

Mr Sanborn spoke of the assistance given by county agricultural agents in carrying around books.

Mr Kerr said that in Kansas much help had been received from work with the rural expert.

As Mr Wyer, who was to read Miss Webster's paper on "Work with foreigners," was absent by reason of illness, Mr Kerr gave a synopsis of the paper, which was followed by a brief discussion participated in by Mr Ripley of the Sacramento County library, Miss Blair of Oregon, Dr Bostwick and others.

The question of county libraries brought out enthusiastic descriptions of the work in California from several California county librarians and from Miss Ruth Crocker, of Portland, Ore., which closed the program.

JULIA A. ROBINSON,
Secretary.

For to do anything because others do it, and not because the thing is good, or kind or honest in its own right, is to resign all moral control and captaincy upon yourself, and go post-haste to the devil with the greater number.

The respectable are not led so much by any desire of applause as by a positive need of countenance. The weaker and the tamer the man, the more will he require this support; and any positive quality relieves him, by just so much, of this dependence.—Robert Louis Stevenson.

Conference of Librarians and Teachers of English in Secondary Schools

Under the auspices of the committee on school libraries of the New York library club a conference of librarians and teachers of English was held on May 8, in the library of the Girls' high school, Brooklyn, N. Y. Miss Mary E. Hall, chairman of the committee, presided.

The general topic, "The library as an aid to the teaching of English," was discussed under the headings of the necessary library equipment for modern English teaching and the best methods of using library resources.

Miss Margaret Coult, head of the English department of the Barringer high school, Newark, N. J., opened the discussion by explaining her use of the unusually fine collection of mounted pictures in the Newark public library.

Miss M. A. Newberry, formerly librarian of the Ypsilanti high school, and now on the staff of the New York public library spoke of the best lists of books for high school libraries; those printed by the State education departments of Minnesota and Wisconsin, the Oregon library commission, the University of Chicago high school list published by the Bureau of education in Washington and the new List of books for high school libraries published by the Board of education in Chicago.

Prof Abbott of Teachers college outlined a very definite scheme for the equipment of a library classroom to adjoin the school library and to be equipped with reflectoscope, victrola and elevated platform for the acting of scenes in plays studied by the class or dramatized by them. He showed how this was feasible without much money outlay by coöperation with the art department and other departments of the school.

Miss Sarah Simons, head of the English department of the Central high school, Washington, D. C., spoke of her experience in using children's natural dramatic instinct and of the value

of class dramatization to vitalize the teaching of literature and to form standards for testing contemporary drama.

Mr Benjamin Heydrick spoke of his study with his pupils of the daily newspapers of the city and their comparative values, and outlines of this study were on a table for distribution to those interested.

Prof Franklin T. Baker of Columbia university spoke of the cultural advantage of casual, easy, free contact with books. The library of the school should have a collection of good literature well bound and suitably illustrated and browsing should be encouraged to the end that the reader might acquire not only intellectual knowledge, but "incidental and casual emotions and impressions" of the highest value.

An exhibit was displayed, which duplicated as far as possible the exhibit of library aids to English teaching which was shown at the National council of English teachers in Chicago last fall.

JULIA B. ANTHONY,
Secretary pro tem.

War Stories for Children

The Grand Rapids public library held on May 1, its eleventh annual conference on children's reading. The subject of the conference this year was "War stories for children." The addresses were as follows:

"The influence of war stories on children," Mrs Clark L. Brown, principal of the West Leonard school.

"The influence of war pictures, in books and newspapers, on children," Mrs Hogue Stinchcomb, editor of *The News Junior*.

"Can we use war stories to train children for peace?" Miss May G. Quigley, head of the children's department, Public library.

"The moral effect of war stories on children," Dr Edwin W. Bishop, pastor of the First Congregational church.

The consensus of opinion was that

war stories, as they have been written in the past, are as a rule not the best sort of reading for children, but that the harmful influence from them can be offset to a considerable extent by the right sort of guidance on the part of the parent, librarian or teacher, by tactfully calling attention to the moral shortcomings that exist in the stories. This should not be done in any preachy sort of way. It was also agreed that before war stories can be used to inculcate in children ideas of peace it will be necessary to develop a new set of writers who will know how to write such stories in an interesting way for children.

The suggestion was made, and generally concurred in, that the U. S. Bureau of education ought to publish and distribute widely an annotated list of good virile war stories adapted to develop in children the ideals of peace rather than those of war.

Letters from well-known authors and educators giving their views on the use of war stories in training children for peace which Miss Quigley gathered proved an interesting feature of the conference. A few of these are as follows:

Whether or not war stories can be used with children to cultivate sentiments of peace will depend very much on the person using them and the manner in which they are used. In most of these stories there is an element of good, that of courage and persistence in self-sacrifice. These same characteristics are equally desirable in the activities and relations of peace in the present and in the future. The important thing is to show children that the time for the barbarities and brutalities of war is past and nothing good is to be obtained by war in the future, that we have now come to a time for hearty and intelligent coöperation.

I would say then that war stories may very well be used with children for the purpose of giving them an understanding and appreciation of the qualities necessary for effective manhood, but that we should be careful not to glorify the act of war itself; but on the other hand to show the greater need for devotion and heroism for the common good of the world in which the individual good of each nation is bound up.

P. P. CLAXTON,
U. S. Commissioner of education.

Attempts to inculcate ideals of peace among children through war stories are fraught, I fear, with much difficulty and meagerness of results. Of course, it is possible to emphasize the spirit of sacrifice and other noble qualities which war doubtless evokes and to overshadow the martial spirit by recital of sufferings which are inevitable.

HENRY E. LEGLER,
Librarian, Chicago public library.

I do not see how war stories can be used to train children in the idea of peace unless the plain truth were told in the war stories, showing how gruesome, gory, and unromantic modern battles are. I do not believe truthful war stories would have very much interest for a child because the truth is decidedly ugly. Would stories about garbage cans train children in the idea of cleanliness?

Some years ago I had a talk with the late Richard Watson Gilder on the subject of biographies for boys where the subject was a hero of peace rather than a soldier. I told him there was a crying need for biographies of non-military men which would be of interest to boys. He afterwards asked me to suggest some subjects, and I confess that I was at the time unable to suggest any which would not require a genius to make interesting to the ordinary boy. I thought of William Lloyd Garrison; but do you know any writer who could make the story of his life fascinating to the American boy?

E. H. ANDERSON,
Director, New York public library.

Can we use war stories to train children for peace? I should say that it depended on the story. I know that in my childhood I frequently was impressed by the heroism of battles and campaigns as by nothing else. I loved soldiers and generals and the capture of towns and the whole terrible business. I think that war stories have generally been written to show the heroic qualities that are brought out by fighting. If you can find stories that will not have this excitement and fascination for those who are young, you may be able to do something. I doubt, however, that it is by war stories that we are going to teach peace. It is a hard problem, this of educating the young to hate war and to love law and order and quiet ways. We must learn to do it. To my mind, it is the greatest problem that we have before us. I do not believe that we are going to get very much help from war literature which, up to date, has somehow made war thrilling and not hateful.

IDA M. TARBELL.

Tell all the war stories you know, and teach every child that his country is worth living and dying for.

AGNES REPLYER.

There may be war stories which can be used to train children for peace. In an article in a *Boy Scout Magazine* I quoted a story of the battle in Thessaly from Henry Noel Brailsford of London, but this article showed the futility of war, and not the blood and thunder of battle. There may be war stories useful for your purposes, but I do not just now think of any other. Ordinarily war stories are by no means healthful reading for children.

DAVID STARR JORDAN.

In my judgment you cannot train boys and girls to love peace by telling them war stories. War stories appeal to the belligerent instincts and the belligerent instincts are sufficiently active all of the time in the normal American boy.

The world should not have been surprised at the volcanic outburst in Europe. Commercial jealousy was at the bottom of it, but the powder barrel was too near the matches, and the belligerent instincts that have been trained for centuries made themselves manifest when the match was thrown in the powder barrel. The Lord deliver the children from having to listen to war stories.

WOODBIDGE N. FERRIS,
Governor of Michigan.

House Organs

A recent letter from C. E. Rush of St. Joseph, Mo., says:

A public library should make a collection of house organs, for the simple reason that it will receive without cost a large amount of fresh and interesting information on business and manufacturing subjects which cannot be easily found elsewhere. Most of it is put out by active, up-to-date advertising men, and after a temporary use of the collection has been made the most valuable articles can be extracted and bound in permanent form, or placed in binders for circulation. Many of these papers contain excellent photographic reproductions, interesting contents and a good supply of business humor. Furthermore, these house organs represent the point of view of the business man and the manufacturer. Another benefit comes to the library through the splendid advertising which may be given to the collection in the local city.

The last revision of our mailing list of house organs was made up from the list found in *Graphic Arts* for February, 1915. It is interesting to know that out of the 190 houses to whom we sent our request a few days ago, fully one-third replied that owing to the present hard times the publication of their organ had been discontinued. Furthermore, these one-third are the *least known* and the *poorest advertisers* among them all.

Lists of Periodicals Wanted

The Rochester library club is compiling a union list of periodicals in the various libraries in the city. It desires information regarding other lists of this kind which have been published in addition to the following.*

Boston public library—List of periodical publications currently received.

—List of periodicals, newspapers, transactions currently received, 1897.

Boston Book Company—Checklist of American and English periodicals, 1908.

Chicago library club—List of serials in public libraries of Chicago and Evanston, 1901.

John Crerar library—Supplement to the list of serials in public libraries of Chicago and Evanston, 1903.

Illinois university—List of serials in the University of Illinois library, together with those in libraries of Urbana and Champaign, 1911.

Library of Congress—Union list of periodicals, transactions and allied publications currently received in the principal libraries of the District of Columbia, 1901.

Philadelphia free library—List of serials in the principal libraries of Philadelphia and its vicinity, 1908.

—Supplement, 1908.

Pittsburgh Carnegie library—Periodicals and other serials currently received, 1912.

Severance, H. O.—Guide to the current periodicals and serials of the United States and Canada, 1908.

—Supplement, 1910.

WM. F. YUST,
President.

Classification of Technical Literature

Delegates from about twenty national technical and scientific societies met in the United engineering society building, New York City, on May 21, 1915, to perfect a permanent organization, the purpose being to prepare a classification of the literature of applied science which might be generally accepted and adopted by these and other organizations.

There was a generally expressed opinion that such a classification, if properly prepared, might well serve as a basis for the filing of clippings, for

*PUBLIC LIBRARIES has just received a list entitled "Current periodicals and newspapers on file at the branches of the New York public library, 1915."

cards in a card index, and for printed indexes.

By request, W. P. Cutter, librarian of the Engineering societies' library, read a paper on "The classification of applied science" in which, after describing existing classifications, he stated that, in his opinion, no one of these, although having excellent features, was complete and satisfactory enough to be worthy of general adoption.

The following officers were elected: chairman, F. R. Low, representing the American society of mechanical engineers; secretary, W. P. Cutter; members of the executive committee, to act with the chairman and secretary, Samuel Sheldon, representing United engineering society; H. W. Peck, representing American gas institute, and Edgar Marburg, representing American society for testing materials.

The executive committee was charged with the task of enlarging the membership of the committee to include delegates from all similar national organizations, and the preparation of a plan for further action.

The name adopted for this organization is "Joint committee on classification of technical literature," and the address of the secretary is 29 West 39th Street, New York City.

The A. L. A. Publishing Board has recently issued a pamphlet on "The collection of social survey material," by Florence Rising Curtis, instructor, University of Illinois library school.

As the subject of Social surveys is at present being given much attention, this carefully prepared outline should prove a valuable aid to librarians in the collection of material.

"Cataloging for small libraries," by Theresa Hitchler, has been issued in a revised edition by the A. L. A. Publishing Board. This edition is much larger than the previous one, but is not changed in outline nor principle; the points previously taken up are merely expanded and treated in greater detail.

The Enjoyment of Pictures

Ruskin says great art is "that which conveys to the mind of the spectator, by any means whatsoever, the greatest number of the greatest ideas," and he adds, to make his meaning unmistakable, "I call an idea great in proportion as it is received by a higher faculty of the mind, and as it more fully occupies, and in occupying exercises and exalts, the faculty by which it is received." We may quarrel with this phraseology, regret that Ruskin omitted "feeling," and "delight," and much besides, but if we will read thoughtfully that whole second chapter of the first volume of *Modern painters*, on *Greatness in art*, we shall, in the end, I think, be content to accept his definition as a fairly satisfactory test of greatness.

But inasmuch as what we get from a picture, as from a book, or from nature itself, depends largely upon what we bring to it, no two of us will be affected by the masterpiece in the same way. Titian's Sacred and profane love may convey only a small number of small ideas to one mind, while it may convey a large number of lofty ideas to another. . . .

After all, any work of art is great for me that promotes in me the greatest number of ideas which exercise and exalt my spirit.—*Henry Turner Bailey*.

Reading list

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Noyes | The enjoyment of art. 1904. |
| Noyes | The gate of appreciation. 1907. |
| Sturgis | The appreciation of pictures. 1905. |
| Bailey | Twelve great paintings. 1913. |
| Emery | How to enjoy pictures. 1898. |
| Witt | How to look at pictures. 1902. |
| Caffin | How to study pictures. 1905. |
| Hind | Adventures among pictures. 1904. |

"Peace of mind must come in its own time, as the waters settle themselves into clearness as well as quietness; you can no more filter your mind into purity than you can compress it into calmness; you must keep it pure if you would have it pure, and throw no stones into it if you would have it quiet."—*Ruskin*.

Library Meetings

Chicago—The annual meeting of the Chicago library club was held in the Woman's club building at Evanston on May 13. Miss Flora Hay of the Evanston public library had the arrangements in charge. Dinner was served at seven, followed by the business meeting and an informal reception.

The secretary's report showed 283 members, and the treasurer reported satisfactory collections and a substantial balance. Miss Louise B. Krause, the retiring president, spoke of some of the events of the year and especially thanked the social committee, of which Miss Renée B. Stern was chairman.

The nominating committee reported the following names for officers and they were unanimously elected: President, Mr J. C. M. Hanson, of the University of Chicago; vice-president, Miss Gertrude Forstall, of the John Crerar library; second vice-president, Miss May Massee, of the *A. L. A. Booklist*; secretary, Dr A. H. Shearer, of the Newberry library; treasurer, Miss Lora A. Rich, of the Chicago public library.

A. H. SHEARER.

Iowa—During the latter part of April and the first of May the Iowa library association held six district meetings in small towns which had not previously had library conferences. The meetings consisted of morning and afternoon sessions and really were informal gatherings of representatives of the smaller libraries. There were free and spirited discussions of actual problems, such as Rural extension, Library advertising, Book selection, Work with schools, New legislation, etc. The meetings appear to have grown in importance during the last few years and it is noticeable that many trustees were actively present this year.

These meetings were organized by the Library commission and Executive board of the State library association. The secretary of the commission helped the chairman to prepare the programs, having in mind topics of a local nature and those discussed in the previous meetings.

Both the secretary of the Iowa library commission and the president of the State association attended all of the meetings. In all 57 libraries were represented and from 25 to 30 librarians attended each meeting.

Michigan—The third annual meeting of the Upper Peninsula library association, held at Marquette, Mich., June 3-4, is reported as having been most interesting and helpful to those in attendance. The association is composed of trustees and librarians of the Northern libraries which are not always able to send a representative to the state meetings on account of the great distances in Michigan. All the librarians in this northern portion of the state were in attendance and they made up in enthusiasm what they may have lacked in numbers.

Miss Alma A. Olson, the librarian at Marquette, and her trustees, as well as many of the citizens, extended as hearty and kind a reception to this small association as if they had been entertaining the larger state organization. They provided excellent music, delectable refreshments, and decorated the library with spring flowers in honor of the occasion.

The most notable paper was read by Miss Genevieve M. Walton of the Ypsilanti State normal college, on "The present day fiction problem." This address was of interest not only to librarians, but to the general public.

First of all, Miss Walton said, the fiction problem of the present day is economic as well as academic. The public library is supported by the tax of the people, who claim a right to be served to what they want in books. Furthermore, the library must have a strong circulation to command the fair appropriation which is imperative to the equation.

In all discussion we hear the circulation divided into fiction and non-fiction. Now, I do not know that the blame for this unfortunate nomenclature belongs to the library, but I do know that it places the negative on the wrong side of the balance sheet, and that here is a place for constructive wording which would be an enormous factor in all discussion and the printed reports thereof.

In the reports, I believe, "fiction" is given both an undue percentage and prominence.

Certainly, a fair amount of fiction is literature, though possibly a readjustment on this basis might suggest the fact that a good deal which is classed as history, philosophy and religion is pure fiction. It has been said, "The novel was in its development first impossible, then improbable, and is now inevitable." Conceding, as we must, its being inevitable, our work is to endeavor to deal justly with all sorts and conditions of men who come to the library for fiction.

We believe our chiefest concern about a work of fiction is whether or not it is immoral. Our real anxiety is about art, which is quite another matter. Miss Corinne Bacon's pamphlet, "What makes a novel immoral?" has been referred to, with its answer that novels are immoral which "appeal to our lower nature," "confuse right and wrong," and are "untrue to the normal life of men and women."

To my thinking, Miss Bacon commits two rather grievous errors, in which most of us are prone to follow her daily; first, in assuming to speak ex-cathedra on matters of morals in novels, and next, in advertising the very books we hold to be immoral. Still further, a book which may be to one person wholly harmful is perfectly right and helpful to another. Many instances called to my attention have emphasized the fact that maturity of mind in the reader frequently spells the difference between a book's being moral or immoral.

And what really is the fiction problem today? I believe there is a general consensus of opinion that we are in a season of literary depression in the production of great novels. Possibly our season of depression is that periodic depth which always goes before a brighter day. We have all felt for a half decade at least, looking through the phase of general spiritual unrest, that we are approaching a later Reformation, or a later chapter in the history of Renaissance. Besides this, remember the great advent of the new drama, which may in large measure claim her place beside her sister in literature, the novel.

The following officers were elected: Miss Adah Shelley, Sault Ste. Marie, president; Miss Mary F. Carpenter, Iron Mountain, vice-president; Zana K. Miller, Menominee, secretary-treasurer.

ZANA K. MILLER,
Secretary.

New York—The annual meeting of the New York library club was held in the auditorium of the Washington Irving high school, New York City,

Thursday afternoon, May 13, 1915, with President Jenkins in the chair and 260 members and guests present.

The speaker of the afternoon was Eugene Nowland, stage director of the Educational department of the Edison Studio.

Mr Nowland spoke briefly of the possibilities of the moving picture as an aid in education. He said, in part, that since the Creation no one other agent, except the printing press, offered such help. Cornell, Pennsylvania and other universities are utilizing the moving picture in many ways. Eminent surgeons have by this means preserved the minutiae of rare operations so that instead of being confined to the knowledge of the surgeons present, they are saved for all time. Moving pictures are being used in teaching civil engineering, geography, mining, and almost all branches of science. From the child in the kindergarten, to the post-graduate student, the moving picture makes many things simple and easy of comprehension which have hitherto been hard to understand. In fact, the danger lies just there, that knowledge will be made so easy that it will not be retained.

Mr Nowland showed films illustrating the manufacture of coin at the Philadelphia mint and some wonderfully interesting pictures of pond life magnified some millions of times. These were followed by a film illustrating an early phase of American history, the Boston tea party, etc. The preparation of this last film cost between \$7,000 and \$10,000.

Nine new members and the following officers for the succeeding year were elected: President, Frederick W. Jenkins; vice-president, Harriot E. Hassler; secretary, Eleanor H. Frick; treasurer, Robert L. Smith; members of council (to serve four years): Emma V. Baldwin; Edith P. Buchanan; William B. Gamble; Franklin F. Hopper.

ELEANOR H. FRICK,
Secretary.

New Hampshire—The annual meeting of the New Hampshire library association was held in the Carpenter Memorial library at Manchester, May 13.

The attendance was larger than at any previous meeting for some time. The new library building was thrown open to the visitors and in a room adjoining the lecture hall, where the sessions were held, were exhibits of new books from various publishers, and a display of Copley prints.

The meeting was planned with the hope of inspiring a greater effort in the coming two years to secure legislation for a state library worker.

Miss Blanchard reported upon the address given by Miss Lutie E. Stearns, before the N. H. Federation of women's clubs in Concord.

Miss DeMerritt touched upon some common points of interest between the New Hampshire library association and the State federation of women's clubs, and said the time had arrived when the club woman and the libraries go hand in hand.

Mrs MacMurphy of Derby told of her reminiscences of three authors, whom she had known intimately, Prof Alpheus Crosby, Marion A. White and Payne Erskine.

A "get-together" dinner was held at the Chinese restaurant and the address of the evening on the "High price of putty," by Miss Addie E. Towne of Franklin was much enjoyed.

The principal business transacted was the appointment of seven supervisors to hold neighborhood meetings throughout the year and to report upon them at the annual meeting of the association.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: president, Miss Mary L. Saxton, Keene; first vice-president, Miss Elsie Gaskin, Derry; second vice-president, Miss Anna L. Webber, Charlestown; secretary, Miss Caroline B. Clement, Manchester; treasurer, Miss Annabell C. Secombe, Milford.

CAROLINE B. CLEMENT,
Secretary.

Pacific Northwest—With approximately 75 delegates present from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and British Columbia, the sixth annual conference of the Pacific Northwest library association convened May 31-June 1 in the auditorium of the Salem public library. The delegates were guests of the Oregon state library and Salem library authorities.

At the first session Monday afternoon, Governor Withycombe welcomed the visitors to the state and city in a brief address, to which the president, George W. Fuller, librarian of the Spokane public library, responded. Following appointment of committees, a round table was held during which Mrs George T. Gerlinger, trustee of the Dallas (Ore.) public library, discussed "The library budget;" J. M. Hitt, librarian of the Washington State library, Olympia, "The county library as a solution," and Miss Ellen G. Smith, librarian of the Walla Walla public library, "Book buying for small libraries."

Because of the heavy rain, it proved impossible to hold the picnic which had been planned as entertainment for the visitors, out of doors, so tables were laid in the reading room of the city library, where luncheon was given the visiting delegates.

The Monday evening session was given to interesting addresses. Miss Virginia McMaster, children's librarian of the Albina branch of the Portland library, spoke on "Children's books for reference use;" Mrs Ida A. Kidder, librarian of the Oregon Agricultural college, Corvallis, spoke on the subject of "The untrained librarian," and Miss Lucia Haley, assistant cataloger of the Seattle public library, spoke on the subject, "Another apology."

Tuesday morning there was a business session when reports of the officers were heard, after which there was a round table discussion. John B. Kaiser, librarian of the Tacoma public library, led one discussion on "Further coöperation with the schools," and George W. Fuller of Spokane, led another talk on "Some experiments in economy." B. B. Futer-

nick of San Francisco, conducted a demonstration in book binding.

State conferences took place in the afternoon. M. H. Douglass, librarian of the University of Oregon, represented Oregon and Judson T. Jennings, of the Seattle public library, represented Washington.

After the state conferences, the delegates were the guests of the Salem commercial club for an automobile ride about the city and vicinity.

The conference closed Tuesday night, with the following program: Miss Annie H. Calhoun, head of the Fine arts division of the Seattle public library, spoke on "Some phases of art work in a public library;" E. O. S. Scholefield, librarian of the Provincial library, Victoria, B. C., spoke on the work of that library, and Miss Ethel R. Sawyer, director of the training class of the Portland library association, spoke on "Questionable books."

The following officers were elected: president, Herbert Killam, head of the Traveling library department, Provincial library, Victoria, B. C.; first vice-president, Miss Cornelia Marvin, librarian, Oregon State library; second vice-president, Miss Louise Hunt, assistant librarian, Portland library association; secretary, Miss Mary Lytle, reference librarian, Public library, Tacoma, and treasurer, Charles Compton, reference librarian, Seattle public library.

Pennsylvania—The last meeting of the Pennsylvania library club for the season 1914-1915 was held on Monday afternoon, May 10, 1915, in the lecture hall of the Philadelphia commercial museum, 120 being present.

President Thomas L. Montgomery being unable to be present, Mr Morton occupied the chair.

The treasurer's report for the year showed a balance on hand from 1913 of \$30 and \$240 received during the year, making a total of \$270, of which \$206 was expended, leaving a balance of \$64 on hand.

The following officers for 1915-16 were elected:

President, Frederick N. Morton, librarian U. G. I. Company; first vice-president, John Ashhurst, Free library of Philadelphia; second vice-president, Hannah M. Jones, librarian, Friends' free library, Germantown; secretary, Jean E. Graffen, Free library of Philadelphia; treasurer, Bertha Seidl Wetzell, Library Company of Philadelphia.

After a short address of welcome by Mr MacFarlane, librarian of the Commercial museum, Mr Morton introduced Charles R. Toothaker, curator of the museum, who gave a most interesting account of "South America and some industries of the United States," illustrated by moving pictures. From Mr Toothaker's story South America might well be called the future playground of America, and it has also wonderful business opportunities. The address was an excellent illustration of the educational value of moving pictures.

After a very hearty rising vote of thanks, the meeting adjourned to the library and museum, where Mr MacFarlane explained the resources of both to a very interested group of librarians who greatly appreciated it.

JEAN E. GRAFFEN,
Secretary.

Coming Meetings

Minnesota—The annual meeting of the Minnesota library association will be held at Hotel Keewaydin, Lake Minnetonka, September 15-17.

The general theme of the conference is "Publicity," and there will be addresses at the Thursday morning session on "Newspaper publicity," by W. P. Kirkwood, University of Minnesota and Josephine Schain of the *Minneapolis Tribune*; "Publicity through exhibits in the library," Flora F. Carr, Mankato; "Publicity through exhibits outside the library," Stella L. Wiley, Hibbing, also an exhibit of library advertising.

The Thursday afternoon and Friday sessions will be given to a consideration of "Coöperation between state societies and departments, and local li-

braries;" committee reports and a book symposium. There will also be some social features.

Rates at the Hotel Keewaydin are \$2.25 to \$3 per day. All who are planning to attend the meeting are requested to send their names to the secretary of the association, Clara F. Baldwin, The Capitol, St. Paul.

New York—Library week in the Catskills, September 22-October 2, promises to be of unusual interest, as the celebration of the silver anniversary of the New York library association.

At one session, pioneers in the work of the association will speak in reminiscent vein of the earlier days, and all persons with such interesting recollections are urged to contribute to the success of the occasion, by communicating at once with the president, Miss Caroline M. Underhill, of the Utica public library.

Several persons from other professions will give an outside point of view. Dr John H. Finley, New York commissioner of education and Dr Charles A. Richmond, president of Union college, will speak on "The practical relation of the public library to educational, industrial and civic institutions."

F. W. Roman of Syracuse university will emphasize the economic worth of the public library as applied to the daily work and practical problems of the people. James Fleming Hosc, secretary of the National council of teachers of English, will talk on the training of those who present literature to children. Mr Irving Bacheller, who was unable to keep his appointment last year, will speak from his experience as an author. Clinton Scollard will talk of poetry of the day, its phases and tendencies, with readings. The outlook for the week is promising for both pleasure and benefit.

ELIZABETH P. CLARKE,
Secretary.

Wisconsin—Preparations are underway for the State library meeting to be held at Eau Claire, October 21-23.

This meeting bids fair to be one of the best in the history of the association.

The Northwestern teachers' association holds its annual meeting at Eau Claire, October 22-23. The programs will be planned so that there will be a number of joint sessions. The aim of these meetings will be to bring about closer coöperation between school and library. Mrs Thorne-Thomsen will give two talks, one on "Children's literature" and the other on "Story telling." Mr F. K. Mathews, Chief Scout librarian, has promised to be present and will speak on "The influence of directing boys' reading."

Dr E. A. Steiner will deliver the lecture, "Efficiency, the watchword of the twentieth century." Dr E. A. Wiggam, called the "apostle of efficiency" will give his well known lecture "The marketing of the margin."

Dr Hosc of the Chicago county normal will speak on some educational subject.

Prof Richard Burton, president of the Drama league of America, will lecture on "The literary structure and social influence of the drama."

The library meetings will begin on Wednesday afternoon. These together with the meetings on Thursday will be devoted to purely library subjects: Library routine, a question box, Christmas exhibits of books, library problems, etc.

Suggestions for discussion will be gratefully received by the committee, and should be sent to any of the following:

Miss Lucy Pleasants, Menasha public library;

Miss Cora Frantz, Gilbert Simmons library, Kenosha;

Miss Laura M. Olsen, Eau Claire public library.

Every one must have felt that a cheerful friend is like a sunny day, shedding brightness on all around; and most of us can, as we choose, make of this world either a palace or a prison.
—Sir John Lubbock.

Interesting Things in Print

The Carnegie library of Pittsburgh has issued a unique list entitled "Favorite books of well known people when they were boys and girls."

Some of the "well known people" are Louisa M. Alcott, Thomas Bailey Aldrich, Caroline M. Hewins, Andrew Lang, Helen Keller, Lucy Larcom, Abraham Lincoln, Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson.

"A reading list for mothers," prepared by L. H. Hall, Ph. D., has been issued by the Minneapolis public library.

The Delaware state library commission has issued a little pamphlet, "The story of a book wagon," which is a resumé of the experiences of two book wagons sent out through Sussex and Kent counties in Delaware.

The first number of the *Technical Book Review Index* has recently been issued. The contents are made up from the titles of technical and scientific works, reviewed in a large number of journals, American and foreign, and recorded at the Technology department of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh as a guide for the selection of new books.

The *Index* will contain two or three thousand titles a year and will be published quarterly by the Index Office, 110 N. Wabash Ave., Chicago.

There has recently been published two volumes of special interest to library workers. "Instruction in the use of books and libraries; a text book for normal schools and colleges," by Lucy E. Fay and Anne T. Eaton, published by The Boston Book Co.; and "Index to short stories" compiled by Ina Ten Eyck Firkins, published by The H. W. Wilson Co. PUBLIC LIBRARIES hopes to give space for further comment in a later issue.

The New York public library has recently issued in pamphlet form an interesting list on "Books for foreigners learning English."

"What pictures to see in America," by Lorinda Munson Bryant, published by John Lane Co., New York, is a most timely publication at this particular season when the art galleries of Europe are practically inaccessible to Americans.

The various art galleries from Boston to San Francisco are visited and the masterpieces of famous artists pointed out. Descriptions, anecdotes and historic facts are also given.

The book has over 200 illustrations and an alphabetical index of artists and their works.

Illustrated bulletins showing various attractive localities, with lists of books relating to them, form the nucleus of the "See America first" propaganda that is being carried on by the Public library of Birmingham, N. Y.

An exceedingly interesting memoir of John Shaw Billings has been issued by Fielding H. Garrison, M. D. Personal accounts of Dr Billings as a young man and as surgeon in the army during the Civil war, his notable work as librarian of the Surgeon-general's office and his crowning effort as builder and director of the great New York public library make a most interesting story of one whose life work reached up to every obligation that fell to his lot. Copious notes from Dr Billings' own writings, relating to various periods of his interesting career, are by no means less entertaining and illuminating of the man who shed honor on librarianship to the highest degree.

A little farce in two acts, and very simply set, "A doctor in spite of himself," by Molière, has been translated by Barrett H. Clark in the series of the "World's best plays," published by French, New York City.

The *Washington University Record* for April, 1915, prints an inventory of serial publications in the collections of the library of Washington university, Washington University medical school and Missouri botanical gardens.

Library Schools

Carnegie library of Atlanta

During the last week of the second term of the Library school, March 24-30, Mrs Edna Lyman Scott gave her regular course of instruction in children's work. On the afternoon of March 29, Mrs Scott gave a story-telling recital to the students of the Library school, the staff of the library and a few invited guests.

The third term of the Library school opened on April 5 on which day Miss Josephine Adams Rathbone, vice-director of the Pratt Institute library school, lectured to the students on "Fiction." After the lecture the faculty entertained at luncheon for Miss Rathbone in the school room.

Miss Laura Hammond, librarian of the Georgia school of technology, gave a lecture on April 28, on the special features of college library work. On April 30, the class visited the library of the Georgia school of technology where Miss Hammond gave a second lecture on the administration of a college library.

On May 6, Mrs Maude Barker Cobb, State librarian of Georgia, lectured on special phases of state library work. This lecture was followed by a visit to the State library on May 8.

Miss Lútie E. Stearns made her annual visit to the school on May 21-22. On the afternoon of May 21, Miss Stearns was present at a meeting of the Graduates association and spoke informally of her work during the past winter. The following officers of the association were elected: president, Miss Vera Southwick, '14; vice-president, Miss Jessica Hopkins, '06; secretary-treasurer, Miss Chloe Smith, '12; executive board to consist of the above officers, and Miss Catherine Walker, '13, and Miss Julia Schilling, '15.

The class of 1915 was graduated on the morning of May 22, with the usual simple exercises. Miss Stearns made an inspiring graduating address and the certificates were presented to the class by Mr Harrison Jones, president of the Board of trustees of the Carnegie library.

Some of the graduates went at once to positions and each member of the class had secured a position before graduation. A list of the class and their positions is appended: Miss Harvie Banks, assistant, Detroit public library; Mrs Harry B. Chamberlin, assistant, Carnegie library of Atlanta; Miss Alma Jamison, assistant, Carnegie library of Atlanta; Miss Louise Roberts, assistant, Birmingham public library; Miss Nellie Rowe, assistant, Greensboro, N. C.; Miss Julia Schilling, assistant, Carnegie library of Atlanta; Miss Mary Yates, librarian, State normal and industrial school, Fredericksburg, Va.

DELIA FOREACRE SNEED,
Director.

Carnegie library of Pittsburgh Training school for children's librarians

The Training school was closed for summer recess May 31-June 5.

Dr William M. Davidson, Superintendent of Pittsburgh schools, addressed the Training school May 19 on the subject of "Coöperation between schools and libraries."

Mr Arthur L. Bailey, librarian of the Wilmington Institute free library, gave three lectures on "Book binding" to the school May 26-27. The lectures were supplemented by a visit to the library bindery.

Miss Effie Louise Power represented the Training school at the A. L. A. conference at Berkeley. Miss Power is chairman of the committee on elementary school libraries of the N. E. A.

Ruth Price, '14, has resigned her position as assistant in the children's room of the Wylie Avenue branch of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh to accept a position in the Children's department of the Detroit public library.

Clara E. Purdum, '14, has been appointed children's librarian of the New Castle public library.

Ethel P. Underhill, '09, will give a course in library work with children at the Riverside Public Library summer school June 28-July 31.

SARAH C. N. BOGLE,
Director.

Los Angeles Public library

A number of libraries, varying greatly in character, were visited during the spring months. The Los Angeles County library was of great interest to the class, representing as it does, a very important development in library extension work. Others visited were the Los Angeles Normal School library, in its imposing new building, the city school library, and the Long Beach public library, where under the guidance of Miss Zaidee Brown, the class was able to study the methods of a well organized public library of medium size.

An exhibition of book-making and publishing houses was held by the class on Wednesday, May fifth. The search for illustrative material brought to light a number of interesting early printed books on the public library's own shelves. In addition to these, the exhibition included a collection of printers' marks, facsimiles of early manuscripts, picture bulletins illustrating the development of printing, early children's books, and an exhibit showing the processes in the preparation of a present day book. The treat of the afternoon was a talk by Mr J. T. Armstrong, who brought some examples from his wonderful collection of early wood engraving blocks and *ex libris*.

The special lectures for the spring term included the following:

The Southwest museum. Mr Hector Alliot.

The high school library. Miss Lucy Fay. Making of school text books. Mr Lin-scott, of Ginn & Co.

Literature of immigration. Dr E. S. Bogardus.

Book selection in the Cleveland public library. Miss Bessie Sargeant Smith.

Library commission work. Miss Zaidee Brown.

Modern drama. Dr B. F. Stelter. Rare books and wood engraving. Mr J. T. Armstrong.

THEODORA R. BREWITT.

The New York public library

The last junior visits of the year were made to the Montague branch and the Children's branch of the Brooklyn public library, to the Jamaica

headquarters and Flushing and Manor branches of Queens Borough public library, to the New Rochelle and to the Newark public libraries.

On May 22, the juniors, the faculty, and some of the librarians attending the May course, visited the H. W. Wilson Co.'s plant at White Plains, carrying box-luncheons, which the company supplemented with coffee and ice cream.

Another Saturday was given to a trip to West Point by boat, during which the informal camera club of the class was kept busy. An exhibit was put up in May of the photographs taken by the students during the year.

On the afternoon of June 2, almost the entire class witnessed Granville Barker's presentation of "The Trojan women" of Euripides, at the new City College stadium.

The last senior function of the year was a May party given to the faculty, alumni, and juniors, the evening of May 14. The librarians taking the May course were also invited and several were present.

Both classes were invited to attend the library's staff meeting in May, at which Mrs Kate Douglas Wiggin read from her own writings.

The final exercises of the school took place on June 11, at 11 a. m. Mr Charles Howland Russell, secretary of the Board of trustees, presided, and bestowed the diplomas. Mr W. W. Appleton, chairman of the committee on circulation, delivered the certificates. Mr Andrew Keogh's address was entitled "The librarian as a unifier." After the exercises, many of those present visited the school room, examined the theses and bibliographies, and admired the gift of the class of 1915, a History of the art of writing, a fine work of text and plates in four portfolios.

The list of graduates numbers 34 and 37 students received certificates.

On June 4, 59 persons took the entrance examinations at the school and 39 in other parts of the country and abroad.

MARY W. PLUMMER,
Principal.

New York state library

Mary E. Cobb, '14, will resign her position in the N. Y. State library school to go to the Brooklyn public library as assistant in the Children's department.

Marcia M. Furnas, '14-'15, will return to the Indiana state library as assistant cataloger.

Donald B. Gilchrist, '15, has resigned as assistant in the N. Y. state library and will go to the University of Minnesota to take charge of the loan department.

Thirza E. Grant, '15, has been appointed reference assistant at Oberlin College library.

Adelaide H. Grenside, '14-'15, will spend the summer months as assistant in the Newark (N. J.) free public library.

Clara S. Hawes, '94, finished her work as cataloger at the Missionary research library, New York City, in May and is now temporarily engaged in cataloging in the reference division of the New York public library.

James A. McMillen, '15, has resigned his position on the staff of the N. Y. state library to become librarian of the University of Rochester.

Edna G. Moore, '14-'15, will go to the University of Missouri library as first assistant cataloger.

Margaret C. Norton, '15, has been appointed catalog assistant at Vassar College library.

Louise M. Peters, '11-'12, has resigned her position as cataloger at the University of Missouri library and will go to the New York public library to join the staff of catalog revisers.

Alice W. Riggs, '02-'04, has resigned her position on the staff of the Carnegie library at Pittsburgh.

Karen Seip, '13-'14, has resigned her position in the Offentlige bibliotek, Bergen, Norway, to join the staff of

the Deichmanske bibliotek, Christiania, as assistant in the accession department.

Mary C. Sherrard, '15, will leave the reference section of the N. Y. state library and will go to the Utica public library as executive assistant.

Ethel A. Shields, '16, has been engaged as catalog assistant for the summer by the Theological Seminary library, Rochester, N. Y.

Winifred Ver Nooy, '15, will go to the University of Chicago library as assistant in the acquisition department.

William Webb, '16, will serve as summer assistant at the Newark (N. J.) free public library.

Recent visiting lecturers have been: April 22. Lutie E. Stearns. The library spirit.

May 1. William Warner Bishop, Library of Congress. Cataloging as an asset to the librarian. A discussion of the value of a good catalog to the library staff and especially to the reference department.

May 7. Franklin K. Mathiews, Chief scout librarian, Boy scouts of America. "Reading for boys." A statement of the poor quality of many books boys read and a plea for sensible selection of better books to replace the poor ones.

May 10. Caroline M. Hewins, Hartford public library. "Children's books; an historical survey." A sketch of the development of library work with children.

The closing exercises of the school will be held Thursday, June 24. The seniors are busy completing their original bibliographies, of which 18 are in a more or less advanced state of preparation.

The summer session will begin Wednesday, June 2.

June 29-30 a meeting of the Association of American library schools will be held in the school's rooms. Practically all of the eastern schools will be represented and representatives from some of the schools of the Middle West are expected.

F. K. WALTER.

Pratt institute

Miss Rathbone attended the annual conference of the American library association held in Berkeley, Cal., and is visiting libraries on the Pacific Coast.

Mr William H. Brett of the Cleveland public library gave a short talk to the students on June 1.

The last lecturer of the term was Mr Franklin K. Mathiews, Chief scout librarian of the Boy scouts of America, who spoke of the work of his commission in providing better reading for boys of scout age.

Alumni notes

Mabel N. Champlin, class of '08, was married to Dr Clayton P. Wolcott on May 20. Miss Olive Ryder, class of '12, has been appointed to fill Miss Champlin's place as librarian of the Public library at Hanover, Pa.

Members of the class of 1915 have been placed as follows: Miss Griffith and Miss Neuhauser, catalogers, Hotchkiss school, Lakeville, Conn.

Miss Heezen, first assistant, Public library, Burlington, Ia.

Miss McKelvy, assistant, State Normal school library, Tempe, Ariz.

Miss Schummers, assistant, Mechanics Institute library at Rochester, N. Y.

Miss Lovell, assistant, Circulating department, Pratt Institute free library.

Miss Maynard, assistant, Children's department, Pratt Institute free library.

Miss Atwater, substitute, Children's department, Tompkins Square branch, New York public library.

Miss Gump, Pratt Institute free library.
Mr Brevoort, Library, American society of civil engineers.

Miss Campbell, during the summer, Catalog department, Columbia University library.

Miss Conkling, Circulating department, Public library, Troy, N. Y.

Helen Morgan, cataloger, Brooklyn Institute museum.

HARRIET P. GOOCH,
Instructor.

St. Louis public library

The graduating exercises of the training class of the St. Louis public library were held at the Central library, on Friday, June 18, at 11 a. m. Twelve young women were awarded certificates of proficiency in their work, entitling them to appoint-

ment as members of the staff of the St. Louis public library. The librarian presided and addresses were made by Dr Hermann Von Schrenck, of the Missouri botanical garden, and Miss Elizabeth B. Wales, of the Missouri library commission. After the ceremonies, refreshments were served in the training class room.

ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK.

Simmons college

June began with a fortnight of final examinations, made more endurable for the seniors by the thought of the gayeties and ceremonies of Commencement week ahead.

The degree of B. S. was conferred upon 30 candidates.

The following appointments have been made:

Margaret E. Batcheller, '15, librarian of the Public library of Portville, N. Y.

Gladys Lord Dixon, '15, temporary assistant, Reference catalog department, New York public library.

Ruth Winnifred Hatch, '15, assistant, Branch department, Public library of Cincinnati.

Madeline Junkins, '14-15, assistant, library of Massachusetts institute of technology.

Marie F. Smalley, '15, assistant, library of Williams college.

Mary Terrien, '14-15, assistant, library of Bryn Mawr college.

Marjorie Tilton Underwood, '15, assistant in the Catalog and reference department, Public library of Cincinnati.

Annie R. C. Fennell, '15, assistant, Arnold arboretum.

Sadie St. Clair, cataloger, Redwood library, Newport, R. I.

Ruth Parker, '14, is employed in the Westfield Athenaeum library.

Christine Price has been acting librarian at Williams college since the resignation of Mr Lowe.

Jane Baumler, '17, is to work this summer in the Utica public library.

Annie D. Edwards and May M. Clark, who were on leave of absence, will return to their home libraries at St. Paul, Minn., and Dubuque, Iowa.

Cornelia H. Ellis, '12-13, has resigned from the Boston athenaeum.

Harriet M. Bosworth, '12, is to be assistant cataloger at the Massachusetts state library, not first assistant, as was reported by the school last month.

JUNE RICHARDSON DONNELLY

University of Illinois

The course of lectures given by the speakers not connected with the University of Illinois was completed this year by Mr Adam J. Strohm, the librarian of the Detroit public library and an alumnus of the school. Mr Strohm spent May 10-11, at the university and spoke before the students and faculty of the Library school and the University library staff. He chose for his topic "Good library service" and gave a most practical and illuminating talk.

The Library School faculty and students had the great pleasure of a visit from Miss Faith E. Smith, director of the training class in the Chicago public library, during the third week in May. Although Miss Smith had not expected to address the school, she was persuaded to give a somewhat detailed account of her work in connection with the training class of a great public library.

On Wednesday, June 16, the University of Illinois granted the degree of B. L. S., to the 14 members of the senior class.

Alumni notes

The following members of the senior class have been appointed to positions: Minnie J. Bollman, cataloger, University of Illinois library.

Mabel L. Conat, First reference assistant, Detroit public library.

Grace A. England, Chief, Municipal and social service division, Detroit public library.

Margaret May Herdman, librarian Syrian Protestant college, Beirut, Syria.

Katharine Lewis, librarian Municipal health department, Chicago, Ill.

Rose M. Mather, librarian Public library, Kankakee, Ill.

Nellie R. Roberts, cataloger, University of Illinois library.

Mary Zeliaette Troy, librarian Hoopes-ton (Ill.) public library.

Norma Lee Peck has been appointed temporarily in charge of the Children's room in the Decatur (Ill.) public library.

Mary Torrance, B. L. S. '13, will have charge of the courses in Library training

offered during the summer term at La-Crosse (Wis.) state normal school.

Grace E. Herrick, B. L. S. '11, will have charge of the courses in Library training offered during the summer session of the Oshkosh (Wis.) normal school.

Dorothy Hurlbert, B. L. S. '00, has been appointed librarian of the Kearney (Neb.) normal school during the absence of Miss Jennings and Miss Langdon, the librarians.

The following members of the junior class have been appointed to positions on the University of Illinois library staff for the summer:

Effie G. Abraham, Jessie E. Bishop, Kate D. Ferguson, Beatrice Prall, Ruth Sankee, Wilma L. Shelton, Dey B. Smith, Jessie B. Weston.

LeNoir Dimmitt, '14-15, has returned to the staff of the University of Texas library at Austin, having completed her junior year at the Library school, for which she had received leave of absence.

The alumni and former students of the Library school will be interested to learn of the approaching marriage of Mr Ernest J. Reese of the Library school faculty, and Miss Sabra E. Stevens, B. L. S. '14, a member of the Library staff.

FRANCES SIMPSON,
Assistant director.

University of Wisconsin

The following lectures were given during May.

Dr McCarthy. Current sociological material. (Two lectures).

Florence R. Curtis. Library work as a profession and Institutional libraries. (Two lectures).

Lutie E. Stearns. Seven problems of the age.

Lois A. Spencer. The librarian's desk.

C. H. Crownhart. Publications of State industrial commission.

W. H. Brett. The Decimal classification and The larger purpose of the public library. (Two lectures).

Cornelia Marvin. Phases of library work on the Pacific coast.

In connection with the course in binding, 20 members of the class took advantage of the offer made by the Democrat Printing Co. to bind a book.

Dramatic readings of Beulah Marie Dix's "Across the border," and of Bernard Shaw's "Devil's disciple," were given during the spring.

On May 31, the annual picnic of the school was held, and on June 9, a children's party was given, the principal feature of which was a reading of a dramatization of Lewis Carroll's "Through the looking glass," by 13 children.

Commencement exercises were held on the evening of June 10. Prof Percy H. Boynton, University of Chicago, gave the principal address, "The fine art of provincialism." Mr Dudgeon as director of the school presided. The address of welcome was given by President Van Hise, followed by a brief address from Mr Cary, State superintendent of public instruction.

After the certificates were awarded to the graduates, 33 in number, an informal reception followed.

The following graduates have received appointments.

Alma P. Brunsell, assistant, Branch department, Cincinnati public library.

Eleanor Campbell, branch librarian, Detroit public library.

Jennie E. Doran, cataloger, Calgary (Alberta) public library.

Margaret E. Ely, assistant, Chicago public library.

Nina Fieldstad, assistant, Children's department, Cincinnati public library.

Laura J. Gage, assistant, Cataloging and reference department, Cincinnati public library.

Gladys N. Germond, cataloger, University of Wyoming, Laramie.

Catherine E. Head, member, Training class for children's librarians, Cleveland public library.

Jessie R. Henkel, assistant, Detroit public library.

Georgiana Mineau, member, Training class for children's librarians, Cleveland public library.

Ada M. Pratt, cataloger, South Dakota library commission, Pierre, S. D.

Rosette Reese, children's librarian, Antigo (Wis.) public library.

Sybil C. Schuette, assistant, Green Bay (Wis.) public library.

Caroline C. Shaw, librarian, Marshfield (Wis.), public library.

Alice B. Story, assistant, Virginia (Minn.) public library.

Cecilia M. Troy, assistant, Chicago public library.

Mabel A. Wayne, librarian, Anderson (Ind.) public library.

Ruth Worden, assistant, Open shelf department, Buffalo public library.

Temporary appointments are:

Caroline C. Shaw, instruction in mending and care of books in the Summer session, Indiana library commission.

Irma M. Walker, acting librarian, White-water (Wis.) normal school.

Norma D. Hibbert, organizer, High School library, Port Washington, Wis.

Alumni notes

A reunion dinner was held Monday evening, June 7, at the Berkeley conference. Fifteen graduates were present and three summer school students.

Anna B. Skinner, '10, was married June 26, to Charles E. Winstead, of Boise, Idaho. Miss Skinner has been librarian at Boise for two years.

May I. Stearns, '10, has returned to the Newberry library, having a position in the catalog department.

Anna Kosek, '11, has been appointed cataloger in the Cedar Rapids (Ia.) public library, beginning August 1. She resigned a similar position in the Madison (Wis.) free library.

Harriet G. Muir, '11, was married June 3, to John Stewart of Lincoln, Neb. Miss Muir has been children's librarian of the Lincoln city library.

Louise C. Grace, '14, has resigned the librarianship of the Marshfield (Wis.) public library to take charge of one of the Detroit (Mich.) branch libraries.

Mary B. Kimball, '14, resigned her position as reference librarian of the Madison (Wis.) free library to become head of the Order department, Minnesota historical society, St. Paul.

May Lewis, '14, supervised the cataloging of the County Agricultural School library at Onalaska, Wis., in June.

Ada Cochrane, ex-'15, was acting librarian at Delavan, Wis., for six weeks during the spring.

Lili A. Muench, ex-'15, was married May 1, to Robert A. Manigold of Milwaukee, Wis.

The regular session of the Wisconsin library school will be held as usual, June 19-August 1, co-extensive with the summer session of the university. The lessons will cover the usual subjects of the short course of six weeks. This course will be open only to properly qualified workers in Wisconsin, and there will be no tuition.

During the last week of the session regular lessons will be suspended, and the students will be required to attend the meeting of the conference.

Summer Library Conference, July 22-31.

Ever since the Wisconsin summer conference of 1911, librarians have asked, "When are you going to have another?" Again as in 1911, the American library association is meeting on the Pacific Coast, and the time seems opportune for another conference, since so few from this region can attend the far away California meeting.

Everyone interested in library work is invited to attend this July conference—librarians, assistants, apprentices, trustees, and interested citizens. Library workers from other states as well as those from Wisconsin will be made welcome. In fact it is planned to make it an Interstate conference, and librarians from neighboring states are invited.

A detailed program will be issued later, but at present only this preliminary announcement is made, that librarians may have the dates of the gathering in mind.

The literary aspects of librarianship will be emphasized. The general theme of the conference will be "Books," with definite comments upon general reading and upon individual books. Other questions, however, will be considered, including problems of administration, of publicity, of library extension, of children's literature, and of coöperation with schools. Some of the leaders of the profession will be among the speakers. It is the intention to make this a helpful meeting for all and everyone is urged to coöperate by sending a list of unsolved problems so that a discussion of them may constitute a part of the program. We will be equally glad to receive statements of new activities or of new methods of performing old activities.

MARY EMOGENE HAZELTINE,
Preceptor.

Western Reserve university

An experimental problem in preparing and presenting a popular program suited to an evening in the library lecture room was worked out very successfully by the students. The story of the "Rhinegold" was the theme of one program with related musical numbers on the Victrola. Another was "Peer Gynt," with certain Victrola selections from Grieg's music.

This year the final problem in Book selection was the preparation of a list of books for a small branch to be started by the Canton, (O.) public library, and the coöperation of Miss Mary Martin, the librarian, in providing the class with such an interesting, "real" problem has been greatly appreciated.

The out of town trips made in connection with the Library administration course were taken during May and included the libraries of Oberlin college, Detroit, Willoughby, Mentor Village, Painesville and Lake Erie college.

The *Annual* of the Library school is issued for the first time as a separate publication by the class of 1915; heretofore it has been included in the *University Annual*. The splendid class spirit and capable work have produced a clever and attractive publication.

The Alumni association held its yearly meeting at the school on June 14, followed by the annual luncheon. This year's meeting was of unusual interest as it was the tenth anniversary of the school, and the class of 1910 held its fifth reunion.

The students were given their certificates at the University commencement which was held Thursday morning, June 17. Dr Samuel A. Eliot delivered the address.

The examinations for entrance to the school were held June 18-19.

Alumni notes

Gertrude H. Sipher, '13, was married April 29, to Mr Gilbert O. Ward, technical librarian of the Cleveland public library.

Some appointments of the class of 1915 are as follows:

Clara Louida Angell, Toledo public library.

Ruth Mabon Fornwalt, Sioux City (Ia.) public library.

Louise Erminie Bailey, Minneapolis public library.

Helen Rachel Harsh, the Brumback library, Van Wert, Ohio.

Gail Janette Koster, Detroit public library.

Hazel Dorothy Leonberger returns to the Spokane public library.

Vera Palmer, Detroit public library.

Nellie Grace Sill returns to the Warren, (Pa.) public library.

Ruth Van Dyke Steadman returns to the Livingston (Mont.) public library.

Alice Williams, assistant instructor and reviser, Iowa summer library school.

Martha Wynne Abell, Leita Elizabeth Edwards, Bertha Dorothy Imbery, Alice Elizabeth Stocking and Isabelle Clark return to the Cleveland public library staff.

ALICE S. TYLER,
Director.

News from the Field

East

The annual report of the New Britain institute records a circulation of 210,213 v., an increase of six per cent for adults; 35 per cent for children and 56 per cent through the schools. This does not take account of the reading in the library, of which there was a large amount. There was a circulation of 8,000 mounted pictures.

Hyde Park, Vt., has accepted a gift of \$5,000 from the late Loomis J. Lanpher of Elmore, for a library building.

A gift of \$5,000, the interest on which is to be used for purchasing books for the Public library, has been recently received by Waltham, Mass., from the Lowell Clark estate.

The annual report of the Public library of Worcester, Mass., records a total circulation of 607,636 v., with 219,667 books on the shelves. The municipal appropriation was \$68,400; the total receipts, \$77,039. Expenditures: books, \$23,546; periodicals, \$2,175; binding, \$3,404; administration, \$37,596.

Central Atlantic

The twenty-first annual report of the

Public library of Montclair, N. J., records a circulation of 168,487 volumes. Considering the population as 25,000, 6.7 books were circulated per capita. Each card holder borrowed, on an average, 18 books, and each volume in the library circulated 4.5 times during the year.

The most important feature of the year was the opening of the new building occupied by the Belleview Avenue branch, which took place December 7. This building represents an outlay of \$34,000, of which \$20,000 was a gift of the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Irene E. Blair, N. Y. State, '07-'08, assistant secretary of the Kentucky library commission, will succeed Mary H. Davis, '09, as librarian of the Free library, Owensboro, Ky., July 1.

Mary H. Davis, B. L. S., N. Y. State, '09, has resigned the librarianship of the Owensboro, Ky., Free library to become assistant librarian of the Connecticut college for women, New London, Conn.

Paul R. Byrne, N. Y. State, '15, has succeeded Lida C. Vasbinder, as assistant in the Legislative Reference section of the New York state library.

Nora H. Giele has resigned her position as librarian of the Public library of Newcastle, Pa. Alice M. Sterling, Pratt '12, has been elected to fill the vacancy.

The second session of the Sunday afternoon openings at the Osterhout free library in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., closed on Sunday, May 30. The attendance proved that it was well worth while. The hours were from two to six, and for readers only. The last hour, five to six, was occupied with Victrola music, and was greatly appreciated. The records played were carefully chosen in order to give only good music and programs of the records played were typewritten and distributed to the patrons.

The Free public library of Newcastle, Pa., reports an unusually good year in

its last annual report, with 63,047 v. circulated, which was 15,074 v. more than were loaned the preceding year. The accessions for the year were 1,711 v., with total number of books on the shelves, 8,486.

Esther E. Burdick, librarian of the Free public library of Jersey City, N. J., died May 25, 1915. She graduated from the New York state library school in 1890, and became head cataloger of the Jersey City public library in 1891. On the resignation of the librarian, George Watson Cole, in 1895, Miss Burdick was appointed librarian of the Jersey City public library, which position she held until her death.

The Board of trustees of the library adopted a memorial setting forth the high esteem in which Miss Burdick was held and the faithfulness with which she had performed her duties through a quarter of a century.

The twenty-sixth annual report of the Osterhout free library, Wilkes-barre, Pa., records a circulation of 152,811 v., an increase of 12,503 over the previous year. The number of volumes in the library is 46,587; additions, 3,290.

Leslie E. Bliss, B. L. S., N. Y. State, '13, has been put in charge temporarily of the Legislative Reference section of the New York state library, J. T. Fitzpatrick, the former chief of the section, having succeeded F. C. Colson as state law librarian.

Central

Adelia Reed, for four years assistant in the State library of Michigan, has resigned and will be succeeded by Mrs Ada Shier.

The total loss to the St. Paul public library from the fire of April 27, is fixed by the appraiser's report at \$307,094, of which \$20,162 was in furniture and fixtures, and the remainder in books. There were 130,209 v. in the library at the time of the fire. Only 9,800 v. were saved, most of them in a damaged condition.

Miss Julia E. Calvert, a member of

the staff of the Public library of Toledo, O., for over 30 years, died May 31.

Bertha Bliss, for nearly 20 years in the service of the Public library of Evanston, Ill., died suddenly on May 30.

Miss Kate T. Ambrose, in the employ of the Cincinnati public library for 34 consecutive years, died May 30.

Mrs Lucy Duncan Hall Fake, founder and first librarian of the Pullman public library, died in Chicago May 26, 1915.

The annual report of the Public library of St. Louis, Mo., records a total of 414,623 v. in the library, with an annual circulation of 1,690,037 v., an increase of 154,867 over the previous year. There were 854,140 v. loaned by the branch libraries; 246,881 distributed by traveling libraries and a total of 190,408 issued through the delivery stations.

The will of the late David Filger of Minonk, Ill., leaves the city \$20,000 for a library building.

The annual report of the Public library of Jacksonville, Ill., records a total circulation of 50,977, a gain of 8,504 v. over the previous year, with 19,149 books on the shelves.

O. F. Barbour, president of the Library board of Rockford, Ill., died April 26, at the age of 81.

Mr Barbour had been a member of the Board of directors of the Rockford public library for 36 years, 18 of which he was president of the board. He was always interested in its work. In many respects, he was a remarkable man. Notwithstanding his advanced age, he was active as principal of the Kent school to the last, having taught 49 years in Rockford.

He gave freely of his time and thought and labor to the advancement of educational affairs. His place will not be easily filled.

The annual report of the Free public

library of St. Joseph, Mo., states that perhaps the most encouraging result of the year's work was the increase in the number of registered home readers, the increase being 1,744. The total number of readers is 20,197, being about 25 per cent of the entire population. Another satisfactory result is indicated by the increase of 16,171 v. in circulation, the total being 282,453 v.

Mabel Wayne, for 15 years connected with the Public library of Decatur, Ill., and a graduate of the Wisconsin library school, '15, has been elected librarian of the Public library of Anderson, Ind. She succeeds Miss Kate Chipman, the present librarian, who, at her own request, has been relieved of the librarianship to assume charge of the reference work. Miss Chipman had been librarian for 15 years.

Katherine G. Ling, for 16 years an employe in the Detroit public library, has resigned her position.

South

A review of 10 years of the existence of the Louisville public library shows a ten fold increase in every department. At its opening in 1905, there were 58,730 v., derived from the Polytechnic society. The first year showed 7,698 borrowers and a circulation of 69,705 v., and reference work of 1,684 topics.

The University of Texas library has about 106,000 v. at the present time. In the past two years, 287,335 v. were circulated.

The Public library of Birmingham, Ala., is working in conjunction with the street railway company of that city in interesting its employes in the service of the public library. A recent list of books on electrical railways, prepared by the library, has been sent out with a letter from the superintendent, to the 700 employes on the railway, urging them to avail themselves of the benefits of the library.

Ethel V. Kynaston, of Moberly, Mo.,

has been appointed law librarian at the University of Missouri to succeed Walter K. Stone, resigned. Mr Stone was connected with the university, first as librarian of the general library and then as law librarian, for 26 years.

The annual report of the Houston lyceum and Carnegie library of Houston, Tex., records a circulation of 126,256 v., an increase of 8,408 v. over the previous year, with a total of 41,305 v. on the shelves. The total receipts were \$9,407.

The annual report of the Public library of Talladega, Ala., records a circulation of 26,843 v., with 8,076 v. on the shelves. The attendance in the reference room was 2,425. Work in the children's room has increased 16 per cent. A system of traveling libraries for the county schools was carried on as far as limited means would permit. An appropriation from the county for this work is looked for in another year.

West

The report of the University of North Dakota library for the biennial period records the number of books as 53,171; pamphlets, 27,000; volumes added, 7,790; pamphlets, 4,040; maintenance for two years, exclusive of salaries, \$9,019; of which \$6,229 was spent for books and periodicals.

The university library contains over twice as many books as any library in the state, and is taking advantage of its opportunity to render state wide service to the people of North Dakota, in addition to its regular university service. During the past year, the library has served 147 different towns in North Dakota, and from one to 25 times in each town. Requests have come from teachers, lawyers, doctors, bankers, mechanics, business men, librarians and others.

Since then, 171,615 v. have been added; the borrowers have increased to 52,128; the circulation for the last year was 945,966 v., and 36,621 reference topics were looked up.

The system now comprises a main